A

DESCRIPTION

OF A

SET of PRINTS

OF

English History;

CONTAINED IN

A SET of EASY LESSONS.

By Mrs. TRIMMER.

IN TWO PARTS.——PART I.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE original Plan, of "PRINTS *with* DESCRIPTIONS," *was limited to a Series of* SCRIPTURE *and* ANCIENT UNIVERSAL HISTORY; *but the Author of it, from the favourable reception which it met with, was induced to extend it to* ROMAN HISTORY, *where ſhe intended her taſk ſhould end; ſuppoſing that as the* HISTORY OF ENGLAND *had been publiſhed in ſuch a variety of forms, an additional one, would be deemed ſuperfluous; but finding that many of the purchaſers of the other Sets were*

were ſolicitous to introduce children by the ſame means, to an early acquaintance with the principal events of their native country, ſhe has endeavoured to fulfil their wiſhes in the preſent work; in the execution of which, ſhe claims no merit beyond that of abridgment, *having done little more, than* extract *from the excellent work of the celebrated Hiſtorian* HUME.

A DESCRIPTION, &c.

TABLE I.

Before the Conqueſt by WILLIAM, DUKE of NORMANDY, Briton was ſucceſſively governed by the following people:*

1. The BRITONS.
2. The ROMANS.
3. The SAXONS.
4. The DANES.

* For an account of the origin of the Britons, ſee Ancient Hiſtory, Part II. Page 96.

Number I.

The DRUIDS gathering the ſacred MISLETOE

THE ancient Britons, according to Cæſar's account of them, were divided into three claſſes of people, anſwering to our nobility, clergy, and commonalty; the laſt of whom were little better than ſlaves, or dependants on the other two. The nobility were conſidered in their ſeveral ſtates, as Princes, or Chiefs, and had a number of followers according as they excelled one another in birth and wealth. The men had the power of life and death over their wives, children, and ſlaves; but none were permitted to ſpeak of matters of ſtate, except in aſſemblies held for that purpoſe. The

The clergy were called Druids, Bards, and Ubates; they had the whole care of religion, laws, and learning; whatever knowledge the people wanted, they applied for to the Druids, whoſe perſons they held in great veneration.

The chief of the Druids had great authority over the reſt, and when he died, the next in dignity generally ſucceeded him, but in caſe of a competition, the Preſident, or Chief, was choſen by election.

The Bards were Druids, or prieſts of an inferior order, who employed themſelves in making verſes in praiſe of their gods and heroes, which they ſet to muſic, and ſung to their harps.

The Ubates employed themſelves in the ſtudy of philoſopy, and the works of nature.

The religion of the ancient Britons was idolatry of the worſt kind; for they ſome-

times offered human ſacrifices to their imaginary gods. Among other ſuperſtitious notions, they believed that the gods had bleſſed the MISLETOE with extraordinary virtues for the cure of all kinds of diſeaſes; and when they were ſo happy as to find it, the people were aſſembled together, and the Druid clad in a white garment, aſcended the tree and cropped the ſacred plant with a golden pruning hook, as the annual preſent of the gods. Public worſhip was performed in groves of oak, where temples were built to the honour of different idols. The Druids dwelt in caves or hollow trees; their food was acorns and berries, and their drink water.

The Britons had great ſtore of cattle, but ſowed no corn; their chief food was milk and fleſh; their religion would not ſuffer them to eat either hares, hens, or geeſe

but they bred great numbers of them for their diverſion. They uſed braſs for money, or iron rings weighed out at a certain rate.

TABLE II.

The Britons were divided into ſeventeen ſmall Sates, or Principalities; but in War Time they confederated together, under one of the Princes, whom they choſe as Commander in chief. The moſt renowned of the ancient Britiſh Chiefs were,

CASSIBELAUNUS in the Time of JULIUS CÆSAR.

CUNOBELINE, in the Reign of CALIGULA.

CARACTACUS, in the Reign of CLAUDIUS.

VENUTIUS, in the Reign of AULUS DIDIUS.

QUEEN BOADICEA, in the Reign of NERO.

The LANDING of JULIUS CÆSAR.*

"BRITAIN was very little known to the Romans till the time of Julius Cæſar, who having overcome the moſt warlike nations of the Gauls, reſolved to bring the Britons alſo into ſubjection, and for this purpoſe he ſailed from Gaul with a fleet under his command, and arriving in a few hours on the Britiſh coaſt, he came to an anchor in a plain and open ſhore.

"The Britons, appriſed of his deſign, ſent their horſes and chariots to oppoſe the landing of the Romans. As the ſhips which

* For a Print of this ſee Ancient Hiſtory, Part II. No. XXVIII.

the Romans came in were large, they required a conſiderable depth of water, ſo that the ſoldiers, though loaded with heavy armour, were obliged to leap into the ſea, and at the ſame time to ſtruggle with the waves and encounter with the enemy, who having their hands at liberty, could either ſtand on dry land, or by wading a little into the water, reach the invaders with their darts.

"Cæſar's ſtandard bearer obſerving that the ſoldiers were diſcouraged, and unwilling to engage upon ſuch unequal terms, ſnatched up the ſtandard, and leaped into the ſea. The troops followed, and a bloody battle enſued, in which the Britons were defeated, and obliged to ſue for peace: but hearing that Cæſar's horſe were driven back, and the ſhips that brought over his army greatly damaged by a tempeſt, they reſolved to make another attempt for liberty, and ſoon collected

lected together a conſiderable force, and attacked the Romans in their camp, but were at laſt put to flight, and purſued by the Roman ſoldiers, who committed great havock. The Britons were now once more under the neceſſity of entreating for peace, which being granted, Cæſar returned to Gaul, carrying with him ſome of the principal Britons as hoſtages.

The Britons had choſen Caſſibelaunus for their commander in chief when Cæſar made a ſecond expedition againſt the iſland, but by degrees they deſerted from him, which gave the Romans great advantages, and Caſſibelaunus was obliged to ſubmit, and acknowledge ſubjection to the Romans; however, before Cæſar had completely ſubdued them, he thought it prudent to return to Gaul, and was afterwards prevented from purſuing his conqueſt, by the neceſſity of at-

tending to other affairs of more consequence to him.

Number II.

CARACTACUS, the BRITISH KING at the Court of the EMPEROR CLAUDIUS.

FOR near a century after the second expedition of Julius Cæsar, the Britons remained unmolested by the Romans. The Emperor Caligula indeed, made a descent upon the island with an army of two hundred thousand men; but returned without performing any exploit.

In the reign of Claudius a great army was sent against them, under the command of Plautius, who gained some victories, and received

received the ſubmiſſion of ſeveral of the Britiſh ſtates; but others under the conduct of Caractacus, a Prince of uncommon talents, made ſuch reſiſtance, that the Romans for ſometime obtained very little advantage; at length Caractacus was defeated in a great battle by Oſtorius Capulus, the Roman General. The valiant Prince Caractacus, no longer able to reſiſt, fled for refuge to Caſſimandua, Queen of the Brigantes; ſhe treacherouſly delivered him into the hands of the enemy, who carried him, his wife, and family, priſoners to Rome.

As ſoon as Claudius heard of the arrival of the royal captives, he ordered them to be brought before him. The Emperor was ſeated on his throne. The wife, children, and brothers of the Britiſh chief, fearing that they ſhould be put to death, uttered the moſt piteous lamentations, but Caractacus

himſelf approached with an air of dignity and compoſure, and in a very manly ſpeech, pleaded his ardent deſire to preſerve the liberty of the Britons, and entreated the Emperor to ſhew clemency toward them.

Claudius was ſo affected with this gallant behaviour, that he ordered all the captives to be unchained, and a triumph was decreed by the Senate to Oſtorius, the conqueror of the Britiſh hero.

Number III.

The DRUIDS burnt in their SACRED GROVES.

NOTWITHSTANDING their repeated misfortunes, the Britons, bold and intrepid, were

were never wholly ſubdued. At length, in the reign of Nero, Suetonius Paulinus was ſent againſt them with a powerful army.

The iſland of Mona, now called Angleſey, was the chief reſidence of the Druids. Paulinus reſolved to attack it. The Britons endeavoured to prevent his landing, both by the force of their arms, and the terrors of their religion. On this occaſion the women and prieſts mingled with the ſoldiers, and ran about the ſhore with flaming torches in their hands, ſhrieking and howling in a ſhocking manner. Fires were prepared in order to ſacrifice to the falſe gods ſuch Romans as ſhould land on the iſland; but Suetonius deſpiſed the threats of the furious Britons, encouraged his ſoldiers to the attack, gained the victory, and burnt the Druids in the very fires they had kindled for the ſacrifice of their enemies. He then ordered their altars to be demoliſhed,

demoliſhed, and their ſacred grove cut down that no memorial might remain of ſo ſhocking a religion. Such of the Druids as eſcaped retired to Ireland, and the Hebrides, while the Roman General began to build forts for the preſervation of the iſland he had gained.

After the deſtruction of the Druids, the Romans gained a memorable victory over Queen Boadicea, who headed the Britiſh army, conſiſting of 230,000 men, 80,000 of them fell in the battle, and Boadicea died ſuddenly, either of grief or by poiſon. This calamity ſo diſconcerted the Britons, that they immediately diſperſed into their ſeveral diſtricts. The city of London was at this time reduced to aſhes by the fury of the Britons, and a great number of Romans and other ſtrangers put to the ſword.

The *ROMANS.*

Number IV.

The ROMANS taking a final Leave of the BRITONS.

THE Britons made frequent attempts to recover their liberty, and ſome of the Roman Emperors went againſt them in perſon; but in general, the Emperors maintained their ſovereignty, by ſending brave and experienced commanders to reſide amongſt them as vicegerents. One of theſe, named Julius Agricola, who governed in the reigns of Veſpaſian, Titus, and Domitian, introduced laws

and

and civility among the Britons; taught them to desire, and raise, all the conveniences of life, reconciled them to the Roman language, and manners, and kindly strove to render their subjection easy to them.

The Britons, won over by these gentle means, yielded by degrees to the dominion of the Romans; and Britain now became a part of the Roman Empire.

The Britons were sometimes dreadfully annoyed by their neighbours the Picts and Scots, and on these occasions applied to the Romans for succours; at length the Romans, on account of the great disturbances which took place in the empire, could not spare any troops for the Britons, but recalled Gallio, the last general who went to their assistance, and who informed them, they must now provide for their own safety.

Before

Before Gallio left the iſland he prevailed upon the Britons to contract themſelves within the confines of England, and convinced them of the neceſſity of repairing a wall, built by the Emperor Severus, which was by this time lined with cities from ſea to ſea.

He adviſed them alſo to build caſtles on thoſe parts of the coaſt which were moſt liable to invaſions, and, having furniſhed them with patterns, by which they might fabricate arms for their own defence, he took his laſt farewel of Britain, to which the Romans never returned.

TABLE

TABLE III.

The Roman Emperors who came againſt Britain in Perſon.

JULIUS CÆSAR,	who firſt landed on the Iſland in the Year 55 before the Birth of Chriſt.
CALIGULA,	in the Year of our Lord 16.
CLAUDIUS,	in the ſame Year.
ADRIAN,	in the Year 79.
SEVERUS,	in the Year 197.
CONSTANTIUS,	arrived in Britain in 293, and died at York in 296.
CONSTANTINE.	He was a Native of Britain, born at Colcheſter, in Eſſex. His Mother was a Britiſh Lady named Helena. Conſtantine viſited Britain the ſame Year his Father died, but did not reſide there.

In the Year of our Lord 448, the Romans abandoned the Iſland, and left the Britons free, after having been Maſters of the greateſt part of the Country nearly 400 Years.

The *BRITONS* and *SAXONS*.

Number V.

The Marriage of VORTIGERN with ROWENA.

AFTER the Romans left the island, the Picts and Scots took advantage of the abject state to which the Britons were reduced, and made frequent incursions into their territories. The Britons, unable to resist such barbarians, agreed to follow the council of Vortigern, whom they had chosen for their King, and sent over to Germany, entreating the Saxons to afford them protection and relief.

The Saxons, who had themselves frequently annoyed Britain in the time of the Romans, gladly accepted the invitation.

Hengist

Hengiſt and Horſa, two brothers renowned for their valour, and ſaid to be deſcended from Woden their idol, obtained the command and landed in the iſland of Thanet with a large body of troops, and with their aid the Picts, who had advanced as far as Lincolnſhire, were driven back. In a ſhort time the Saxons were reinforced by 5000 of their countrymen, who arrived in 18 veſſels, with their wives and families. The Britons now began to ſee the danger of the ſtep they had taken, and loudly exclaimed againſt Vortigern; but this Prince who was very wicked and tyrannical, inſtead of conſulting the good of his country, contracted a cloſe union with Hengiſt and Horſa, and importuned them to ſend for more Saxons; and though he had another wife alive he married Rowena, the daughter of Hengiſt, a very beautiful young lady, whom he firſt ſaw at a banquet.

This

This treacherous Prince on his marriage, put the Saxons in poſſeſſion of the fertile plains of Kent, which lay favourable for their expeditions by ſea. The Saxons now gained ground in England very faſt, but Horſa was killed in battle by Vortimer, Vortigern's ſon by his firſt marriage; and Vortigern was ſoon after depoſed; Hengiſt, on his brother's death took the title of King of Kent; but was worſted by the Britons under the command of Vortimer, in a battle near Folkſtone in Kent. The gallant Britiſh commander died ſoon after, and then Hengiſt again reſumed the government. Vortigern deſpiſed and neglected by all parties, took refuge in Wales, and died in that retreat.

The

The *BRITONS* and *SAXONS* continued.

ESCA, the ſon of Hengiſt, ſucceeded his father as King of Kent, and reigned with great reputation. A body of Saxons, under the command of Ælla and his three ſons had ſome time before laid the foundation of the kingdom of the South Saxons.

Another tribe of Saxons, under the command of Cerdic and his ſon Kenric, landed in the weſt, and from thence took the name of Weſt Saxons. Cerdic was oppoſed by the Britons, but being aſſiſted by his countrymen on the iſland, he defeated the brave Britiſh King, whoſe name is uncertain, and left him dead on the field of battle.

The celebrated Prince Arthur was then inveſted

nveſted with the chief command, who ſub-ued the Saxons in twelve ſucceſſive battles, ut was, notwitſtanding his ſucceſs, obliged o conclude a treaty with them, and was af-erwards killed in a civil war by his nephew Mordred, who at the ſame time received his death's wound from him. Arthur was he laſt of the Britiſh worthies.

Freſh tribes of Saxons continued to come over. At laſt the Britons were forced to leave the kingdom, and retire into Wales, where they were ſheltered by the inacceſſible mountains.

The *SAXONS.*

WHEN the Saxons had made themſelves maſters of the country, they divided the kingdom

dom into ſeven parts, called the Saxon Heptarchy.

The Saxons are reckoned a blunt honeſt people, without guile, or much ingenuity, who loved to carouſe all night over their malt liquor, and ſo very quarrelſome when intoxicated as ſeldom to part without bloodſhed; but when ſober they were open to reconciliation.

They were ſo attached to games of chance, that a man after having loſt all his effects very often played away his liberty, and ſuffered himſelf to be ſold for a ſlave. They were groſsly ignorant of arts and ſciences, and had but little taſte for agriculture. They were habited in looſe caſſocks, armed with ſhields, ſpears, and daggers or ſhort ſwords. They were of large ſtature, robuſt in conſtitution, active, inured to fatigue, accuſtomed to rapine, and particularly cruel to their

their priſoners, putting every tenth captive to death by the moſt dreadful tortures. In reſpect to religion they were idolators, and offered human ſacrifices to their idols.

TABLE IV.

The Saxon Heptarchy contained the following Kingdoms:

1. KENT.
2. NORTHUMBERLAND.
3. EAST ANGLIA.
4. MERCIA.
5. ESSEX.
6. SUSSEX.
7. WESSEX.

The Saxons firſt landed at the Iſle of Thanet, in the Year 449, or 450. CERDIC arrived in the Year 490.

The moſt renowned KINGS of the HEPTARCHY.

Number VI.

The Coronation of EGBERT, firſt King of ENGLAND.

KENT.

This Kingdom included alſo the ISLES of THANET and SHEPEY.

THE moſt famous of the Kings of Kent was Ethelbert, he married a chriſtian princeſs, named Birtha, who perſuaded him to embrace the *Chriſtian Faith*, and his ſubjects followed his example. This was the firſt

introduction of Chriſtianity into Britain. Ethelbert reclaimed his people from groſs ignorance and barbarity, and enacted a body of laws.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

This Kingdom contained the whole County of NORTHUMBERLAND, the Biſhopric of DURHAM, and the Counties of LANCASTER and YORK.

AMONG the Kings of this diſtrict, Edwin diſtinguiſhed himſelf. It is ſaid that juſtice was ſo ſtrictly obſerved in his reign that a woman or child might openly carry a purſe of gold without any danger of being robbed. He married the daughter of Ethelbert, King of Kent. After ſome deliberation he became a Chriſtian and his peo-

ple

le alſo were converted: but notwithſtanding is outward profeſſion of Chriſtianity, this rince was of ſo ambitious and haughty a pirit, that he excited the jealouſy of all the nglo-Saxon Princes.

EAST ANGLIA.

his Kingdom contained the Counties of CAMBRIDGE, SUFFOLK, and NORFOLK.

IT is ſaid that Sigebert, one of the Kings f Eaſt Anglia, introduced learning into his ingdom, and laid the foundation for the Univerſity of Cambridge, by building chools there.

MERCIA.

This Kingdom contained all the middle Counties, from the Banks of the SEVERN, between EAST ANGLIA, and WESSEX.

THIS was the largeſt of all the Kingdoms of the Heptarchy; the inhabitants became Chriſtians under the reign of a King named Preda, who was converted by his Queen.

ESSEX, or EAST SAXONY.

Contained ESSEX, MIDDLESEX, and part of HERTFORDSHIRE: it originally formed part of the Kingdom of KENT.

THIS Kingdom makes no figure in the Saxon Heptarchy.

SUSSEX,

SUSSEX, or SOUTH SAXONY,

Contained SURRY, SUSSEX, and the NEW FOREST.

THE Hiſtory of this kingdom is very imperfect.

WESSEX, or WEST SAXONY.

Included HAMPSHIRE, DORSETSHIRE, WILTSHIRE, BERKSHIRE, and the ISLE of WIGHT.

AFTER the Saxons had expelled the natives of Britain, and divided the country into the Heptarchy, they began to quarrel among themſelves. The Kingdom of Weſ-

ſex met with great reſiſtance at firſt; but at length overcame all the others.

The laſt King of Weſſex was named Egbert; he was a Prince of great natural abilities, which he had improved in the court of Charlemagne, King of France. Before he came to the throne the Mercians had nearly obtained the ſovereignty over the Heptarchy, but the valiant Egbert led his army againſt them and obtained a complete victory. Mercia was by this means added to his dominions, and in a ſhort time all the other Kingdoms ſubmitted to his authority, and he was ſolemnly crowned at Wincheſter King of ENGLAND, by which name the united Kingdom was from that time called.

The territories were nearly of the ſame extent with what is now called England.

TABLE V.

Saxon Kings of England.

1. EGBERT.
2. ETHELWOLF.
3. ETHELBALD and ETHELBERT.
4. ETHELRED.
5. ALFRED the Great.
6. EDWARD . called the Elder.
7. ATHELSTAN.
8. EDMUND.
9. EDRED.
10. EDWIN.
11. EDGAR.
12. EDWARD the Martyr.

The Heptarchy was united into one State in the Year 827, near 400 Years after the first arrival of the Saxons in Britain.

Number VII.

KING ALFRED at his STUDIES.

Number VIII.

The Tribute of WOLVES HEADS.

Reigns of the SAXON KINGS.

EGBERT.

THE inhabitants of the different ſtates were contented under the government of this Prince, and promiſed themſelves peace and comfort; but they were diſappointed in their hopes, and kept in perpetual diſquietude by the Danes, who frequently invaded them, and committed the moſt barbarous ravages.

Five

Five years after Egbert had eſtabliſhed his monarchy over England, they landed in the iſland of Shepey, and having pillaged it, eſcaped with impunity; but in two expeditions afterward, they were encountered by Egbert, who the laſt time totally defeated them. Soon after this he unfortunately died.

ETHELWOLF.

This Prince had neither the abilities nor courage of his father. In his reign the Danes returned, and gained a ſettlement in the iſle of Thanet.

ETHELBALD and ETHELBERT.

Theſe two Princes were ſons of Ethelwolf, who by his will divided the kingdom between them. Ethelbald lived only two

years; but Ethelbert reigned ſix. England was ſtill infeſted by the Danes.

ETHELRED,

Who was brother to the laſt King, ſucceeded him on the throne: in his reign the Danes made great depredations, and he loſt his life in battle againſt them.

ALFRED.

This Prince was the youngeſt ſon of Ethelwolf, he was his father's favourite, who indulged him to ſuch a degree as to ſuffer him to neglect his education. At twelve years of age Alfred became ſenſible of his folly, in ſpending thoſe hours in diverſions, which ought to have been devoted to ſtudy and improvement, and he applied to learning

ing with ſo much aſſiduity, that he made an aſtoniſhing progreſs. On the death of his brother Ethelred, Alfred was called to the throne, which obliged him to relinquiſh, in a great meaſure, thoſe agreeable purſuits, in order to march againſt the Danes. At firſt he was very unfortunate, and found himſelf under the neceſſity to lay aſide his royalty and go into retirement, where he paſſed for a peaſant, and was employed by a herdſman, with whom he lived to look after his cattle; but when a favourable opportunity offered, the brave King reſumed his command and fought many battles, by which, in the courſe of a few years, he totally ſubdued the Danes; thoſe which remained entreated his clemency, and he permitted them to ſettle in what had formerly been the kingdoms of Eaſt-Anglia and Northumberland, requiring no other token of ſubmiſſion than their converſion to Chriſtianity,

Chriſtianity, to which they conſented and were baptized.

The good King next endeavoured to reſtore order to the ſtate, and after rebuilding London, and other ruined cities, he eſtabliſhed a regular militia, increaſed the number of ſhips; divided England into counties, framed many excellent laws, encouraged learning, by inviting ſcholars from all parts of Europe to reſide in England, and by eſtabliſhing ſchools every where, for the inſtruction of his people; he alſo founded or repaired the Univerſity of Oxford, and liberally endowed it.

Alfred uſually divided his own time into three equal parts; one he allotted to ſleep, diet, and exerciſe; another to buſineſs, and the third to ſtudy and devotion, and by this means, though often indiſpoſed, this martial hero, who fought in perſon 56 battles by ſea

ſea and land, was able, in a life of no extraordinary length, to acquire more knowledge, and compoſe more books, than many ſtudious men who have been bleſt with the greateſt leiſure

Alfred endeavoured to convey his inſtruction in parables, ſtories, and poetry; he tranſlated Æſop's Fables from the Greek, and gave Saxon tranſlations of other valuable works: nor did he neglect what are deemed vulgar mechanical arts, every man was rewarded for uſeful inventions or improvements; navigation and commerce with diſtant nations were greatly encouraged, and Alfred ſet apart a ſeventh portion of his own revenue, for the employment of workmen, in rebuilding the ruined caſtles, palaces, and monaſteries. Even the elegancies of life were in his reign brought into this kingdom from the Indies and Mediterranean; and

Alfred

Alfred was eſteemed both by his own ſubjects and foreigners, as the greateſt Prince, excepting Charlemagne, that had appeared in Europe during many ages, and as one of the wiſeſt and beſt that had ever lived. He was very pleaſing in his manners, and had an open engaging countenance, and an air of great dignity.

EDWARD the Elder.

He was the ſecond ſon of Alfred, and called the Elder, on account of his being the firſt of his name who reigned in England; he was equal to his father as a warrior, but greatly his inferior in ſcience and literature. His reign was very unquiet.

ATHELSTAN,

The ſon of Edward ſucceeded him, he was a great warrior and a good politician; his reign was diſturbed by the Scots, Danes and Britons; but he reduced them to order, and reigned ſixteen years in peace. This Prince employed learned men to finiſh a tranſlation of the Bible into the Saxon language.

EDMUND

Succeeded him in the throne; he was a Prince of extraordinary courage and abilities, and during his ſhort reign ſhewed great regard for the welfare of his ſubjects. He enacted many good laws, and was the firſt in England who cauſed theft to be puniſhed with

with death: the kingdom was likely to flouriſh under ſuch a monarch, but he loſt his life in attempting to ſeize a notorious robber who intruded into the royal preſence after he had been expelled the kingdom. The name of this villain was Leof; he ſtabbed the King with a dagger.

EDRED.

This Prince was brother to Edmund; in his reign the Danes made freſh attempts to recover their liberties, but he humbled them, and reduced their kingdom to a province. Theſe tumults were ſucceeded by a profound peace; but ſhortly after the King died. Edred was the firſt of the Saxon monarchs who aſſumed the title of KING of GREAT BRITAIN.

EDWY,

E D W Y,

Who reigned next, was the ſon of Edmund, he was only fourteen when he aſcended the throne; this Prince was remarkable for the beauty of his perſon, and his amiable diſpoſition; but Dunſtan, a proud Abbot, who pretended to be a ſaint, raiſed a faction againſt him, which became ſo powerful, that Edwy was obliged to ſubmit to divide the kingdom with his brother Edgar. He lived only two years after this diſgrace.

E D G A R,

Before he came to the throne gave ſtrong marks of genius and underſtanding, and he afterward took ſuch meaſures as kept his

his ſubjects in ſubmiſſion, and his enemies in fear.

He married the beautiful Elfrida, daughter of the Earl of Devonſhire, and widow of Ethelwold his favourite, who having been employed by the King to bring him an account whether Elfrida was as handſome as ſhe was reported to be, diſparaged her charms to the King, and married her himſelf. As ſoon as the King heard of this treachery, he reſolved to revenge it, and ſhortly after Ethelwold was found murdered in a wood, and Elfrida became the Queen of Edgar.

At this time England was dreadfully infeſted with wolves; in order to get rid of them Edgar changed the tribute which the Welch people uſed to pay to him in money, into 300 wolves heads, to be paid every year; this expedient effectually cleared the country in three years of thoſe repacious animals,

nals, and there have been no wolves in England since, excepting in collections of wild beasts brought from foreign parts.

EDWARD the Martyr.

He was the son of Edgar, and only fifteen years old when he came to the throne: nothing remarkable passed during his reign. Elfrida, his mother-in-law, wanting to get the kingdom for her son Ethelred, ordered one of her servants to stab the King, who had mounted his horse after making her a friendly visit: finding himself wounded, he set spurs to his horse, but soon fell through faintness, and was dragged in the stirrup till he expired. After his death the people, who were at that time very superstitious, believed miracles to be wrought at his tomb, and called him the *Martyr*.

ETHELRED.

ETHELRED the Second,

The ſon of Edgar and Elfrida, was raiſed to the throne; but he was very unfit to govern, being of a moſt timid undecided diſpoſition.

In his reign the Danes again invaded England, and made great devaſtation. Ethelred purchaſed their abſence by a great ſum of money, and made an alliance with Richard the IId. Duke of Normandy, by marrying Emma, the ſiſter of that Prince. Two of the King's favourites, Huma, general of his army, and Edric Streona, Duke of Mercia, formed the horrid deſign of making a general maſſacre, in one night, of all the Danes in England, excepting thoſe in Eaſt Anglia and

nd Mercia; the King conſented, and on St. rice's day, the unſuſpecting victims were l butchered by the Saxons, without reſpect age or ſex.

Sweyn, King of Denmark, whoſe ſiſter, e wife of an Engliſh nobleman, was mur- ered with the reſt, determined to revenge er death, and ſoon arrived in England, where e made great havock, and obliged the Eng- ſh to pay him a large ſum of money: in a hort time the Danes returned again, and roceeded to ſuch extremities, that the Eng- ſh nobility found themſelves under the ne- eſſity of ſwearing allegiance to the Daniſh onarch, and gave him hoſtages for their delity. Ethelred with his family, fled into Normandy, where they were received by Richard with great generoſity.

Shortly after Sweyn died, and the Engliſh prelates

prelates and nobility ſent to invite Ethelred to return; which he did, but behaved very badly.

Canute the ſucceſſor of Sweyn proved as terrible an enemy as he had been. Edric who was ſon in-law to Ethelred, treacherouſly diſperſed the army under his command, and then openly deſerted to Canute with forty veſſels.

The King of England, inſtead of marching againſt the Danes, pretended ſickneſs, and remained at home, leaving the command to his ſon Edmund, who after ſome fruitleſs expeditions into the north, retired to London, reſolving to maintain to the laſt extremity, the remains of Engliſh liberty. At this juncture the king died, and left his kingdom in the utmoſt confuſion.

EDMUND

EDMUND IRONSIDE.

This Prince was named *Ironside* on account of his hardy valour; he had great abilities, but could not raise his country from the misery into which it had fallen; after using his utmost endeavours to vanquish his enemies, he was forced to consent to divide his kingdom with Canute. He survived this treaty only one month, when he was murdered at Oxford by two of his chamberlains, accomplices of Edric, who thus made way for the succession of CANUTE, *the Dane*, to the crown of England.

TABLE VI.

The DANES.

Names of the Daniſh Kings, and of the laſt Saxon Monarchs of England.

1. CANUTE the Great.
2. HAROLD I.
3. HARDICANUTE.
4. EDWARD III. ſurnamed the Confeſſor, of the Royal Saxon Line.
5. HAROLD II. a Saxon by Birth, but not of Royal Blood.

The firſt appearance of the Danes in England was in the Year 787, when Bithric reigned in Weſſex. The next alarm was given in 794, when they landed with a view of learning the ſtate of the country. Though they frequently viſited the coaſt afterward and plundered different places, they did not become truly formidable till the reign of Egbert, when they reſolved to gain a ſettlement in the country, and landed in the Iſle of Thanet.

Reigns of the DANISH KINGS.

Number IX.

CANUTE commanding the Sea to retire.

CANUTE.

AFTER the death of Edmund, Canute found means to obtain the ſole government of England, and having done ſo, he favoured equally the Danes and Saxons. Though he had ſhed a great deal of blood to gain the throne, he was ſo remarkable afterward for juſtice, piety, and moderation, that he obtained the love of his ſubjects, and the eſteem of mankind in general.

In this happy ſituation Canute remained for ſeveral years, and then died in the 19th year of his reign.

It is related of this Prince, that walking one day on the ſea-ſhore with his courtiers, one of them flattered him to ſuch a degree, as to compare his power to that of GOD; on which he ordered a chair to be placed upon the beach while the tide was flowing, and ſitting down, commanded the ſea to retire; being ſoon ſurrounded with water, he roſe up and reproved his flatterers, for having beſtowed upon him the praiſe due to the Almighty alone, and from that time would never wear his crown.

HAROLD I. *Surnamed Hare's-foot, on Account of his Swiftneſs,*

He was one of the ſons of Harold, and appointed

appointed ſucceſſor by his father's will; but the hearts of the Engliſh were placed upon his brother Hardicanute, who was born in England, and whoſe party was eſpouſed by earl Godwin, the moſt powerful nobleman in England. When Harold had reigned four years he died.

HARDICANUTE,

So called on account of his robuſt conſtitution, ſucceeded to the throne. This Prince, who was the ſon of Canute, ſoon loſt the affections of the nation by his bad conduct. His violent government was of ſhort duration; he reigned but two years, and is ſuppoſed to have ſhortened his life by intemperance.

EDWARD

EDWARD the Confeſſor.

So called for his great attention to religion, next ſucceeded. This Prince, the laſt of the Saxon line, was the ſon of Ethelred and Emma. Though he had not great abilities as a ſovereign, his reign was peaceable and fortunate, and he was remarkable for exerciſing and promoting the ſtrict adminiſtration of juſtice. The character of this Prince was ſo great for ſanctity, that his people ſuperſtitiouſly believed his touch would cure the ſcrophula, called for this reaſon, the *King's Evil.* Edward the Confeſſor built Weſtminſter Abbey.

HAROLD

HAROLD II,

Was a Saxon, though not of royal blood. He was the ſon of Earl Godwin. After the death of Edward, he obtained the throne; but William, Duke of Normandy, who had been named by Edward as his ſucceſſor, diſputed his right, and claimed it for himſelf: on Harold's refuſing to reſign the crown, William invaded England, in order to gain it by force of arms. The Engliſh monarch aſſembled all his forces, advanced againſt the Norman army, and encamped within ſeven miles of Haſtings, in Suſſex, where it was poſted.

A memorable battle was fought, in which both commanders ſhewed great ſkill and courage: at length Harold was ſlain with an arrow as he was fighting with aſtoniſh-

ing valour at the head of his troops; his two brothers ſhared the ſame unhappy fate; and the Engliſh being quite diſheartened, gave way on all ſides, and were purſued with great ſlaughter by the victorious Normans.

The battle continued from morning till ſunſet; William had three horſes killed under him, and there fell near 15000 men on the ſide of the Normans, the loſs of the Engliſh was ſtill more conſiderable.

This victory is called in Engliſh hiſtory, the CONQUEST. It was gained on the 14th of October, 1066, which was Harold's birth day.

Thus ended the Saxon monarchy in England, after it had continued, including the reigns of the three Daniſh Kings, upward of 600 years.

TABLE VII.

The Nine Lines of Kings who have reigned in England ſince the Conqueſt.

1. The NORMAN Line.
2. The Line of BLOIS.
3. The Line of PLANTAGENET.
4. The Line of LANCASTER.
5. The Line of YORK.
6. The Line of Tudor.
7. The Line of STEWART.
8. The Line of ORANGE.
9. The Line of BRUNSWICK.

TABLE VIII.

Kings of the Norman Line.

1. WILLIAM the Conqueror - - 1066
2. WILLIAM RUFUS. - - - - - 1087
3. HENRY I. - - - - - - 1100
4. Stephen - - - - - - - 1135.

The *NORMANS.*

Reigns of the NORMAN KINGS.

Number X.

The Battle of HASTINGS, with the Death of HAROLD.

WILLIAM I. *called the Conqueror.*

SHORTLY after his victory at Haſtings, William marched up to London where he was anointed and crowned King of England, in the year 1066; from London he went to Barking, in Eſſex, where he re-

ceived the ſubmiſſions of all the nobles who had aſſiſted at his coronation.

During his reign there were frequen quarrels between the Engliſh and Normans, and ſometimes inſurrections; but William maintained his conqueſt, and effectually ſubdued thoſe who oppoſed him. He ſpared their lives but ſeized upon their eſtates.

This King introduceed into England the *Feudal Law.* He divided all the lands in England, with very few exceptions, into baronies, and gave them to thoſe who aſſiſted him in the conqueſt. The barons ſhared out a part of their lands to other foreigners; the former were called *leige lands*, the latter *knights*, or *vaſſals.*

The vaſſals paid the ſame duty and ſubmiſſion both in peace and war to their lords, as the lords owed to their ſovereign. The clergy were under the ſame feudal law. All biſhops

biſhops and abbots, as well as the barons, were obliged in time of war, to furniſh the King with a certain number of knights, or military tenants.

Under this reign no native was advanced to any dignity, either in the church, the ſtate, or the army. William formed a plan for aboliſhing the Engliſh language, and for that purpoſe eſtabliſhed French ſchools throughout England; no other lauguage was talked at court, and the Engliſh were aſhamed of their native tongue: but by this means the Engliſh language gained a number of ſignificant words which it had not before.

William the Conqueror cauſed a general ſurvey to be made of all the lands in his kingdom, and a book to be written, called dooms-day-book, which contained an account of every particular relating to them.

When

When he had ſettled his kingdom, he hoped to enjoy it in peace; but the latter part of his life was diſturbed by the quarrels and jealouſies of his ſons. Robert, the eldeſt, was very brave, but of a temper too apt to take offence. William and Henry, the two youngeſt, ſometimes made it their diverſion to teaze him. In one of their frolicks they threw water upon Robert, which ſo enraged him, that he drew his ſword, and ran after them, reſolving to take revenge, and a dreadful tumult enſued. All the young nobility took part with Robert, who endeavoured to diſpoſſeſs his father of his Norman dominions, and William was obliged to get the Engliſh to aſſiſt him, by whoſe aid he got the better of his undutiful ſon. The reſt of his reign was however clouded by misfortunes, and he died ſoon after in conſequence of a fall from his horſe.

This

This King was low in ſtature, but corpulent, and remarkably ſtrong; his countenance was ſtern. Though he was not learned himſelf, he was a favourer of learned men, and held the clergy in great reverence. He was very fond of feaſting and hunting, on which occaſion he ſhewed great magnificence. He died in the year 1087, having reigned 21 years.

TABLE IX.

The Family of William the Conqueror.

WIFE.

MATILDA, Daughter of BALDWIN, Earl of Flanders.

SONS.

1. ROBERT, ſurnamed Courthoſe, who ſucceeded his father as Duke of Normandy.
2. RICHARD, killed by a ſtag in the New Foreſt.
3. WILLIAM, ſurnamed Rufus, who ſucceeded as King of England.
4. HENRY, ſurnamed Beauclerk, afterwards King of England, and Duke of Normandy.

DAUGHTERS.

1. CICELY, a nun, and afterwards an abbeſs.
2. CONSTANTIA, married to the Earl of Brittany.
3. ALICE, contracted to Harold.
4. ADELA, married to Stephen, Earl of Blois.
5. AGATHA, betrothed to the King of Gallacia, but died before ſhe was married to him.

GRANDCHILDREN.

ADELA's four ſons, WILLIAM, THEOBALD, HENRY, and STEPHEN.

Number XI.

The Death of WILLIAM RUFUS.

WILLIAM, ſurnamed Rufus, or the Red, from the colour of his Hair and Complexion,

WAS the third ſon of William the Conqueror. He was crowned King of England ſoon after his father's death, and his brother Robert was made Duke of Normandy. This diviſion of the Conqueror's dominions was not pleaſing to the Norman barons, which occaſioned ſome diſturbances, but at length a treaty was made, in which it was agreed, that if either of the brothers died without leaving

leaving children, the ſurvivor ſhould inherit his part of the dominions.

About this time the Cruſades, or holy wars, begun. In that age of ſuperſtition, when the people were Roman Catholics, it was reckoned an act of religion to travel to Jeruſalem, in order to pay devotion at what was ſuppoſed to be the ſepulchre of our Saviour. Thoſe perſons who travelled on this errand were called pilgrims. Some of the people called Mahomedans (on account of their profeſſing the abſurd religion which the impoſter Mahomet taught) had got poſſeſſion of Jeruſalem, and treated the pilgrims very ill, ſo that they could not travel in ſafety: this raiſed the indignation of all the countries that profeſſed Chriſtianity, and the Pope had formed a deſign of getting them to join their forces againſt theſe infidels; but before he could effect his purpoſe,

a man

man, known by the name of Peter the Hermit, made a propoſal, which in a ſhort ſpace of time collected together a multitude of adventurers, conſiſting of nobles, gentry, prieſts, artiſans, peaſants, &c. which when muſtered in the plains of Aſia, amounted to 700,000 combatants, among whom was Robert, Duke of Normandy, who ſold his dominions to his brother, in order to ſupply himſelf with money for the cruſade, or holy war, William, earl of Poictiers, and duke of Guienne, offered to mortgage all his dominions for the ſame purpoſe; the King accepted the offer, but before he could take poſſeſſion, an accident put an end to his life.

He was engaged in a hunting party in the New Foreſt, and Sir Walter Tyrrell, a French gentleman, remarkable for his ſkill in archery, attended him. Tyrrell, impatient to ſhew

ſhew his dexterity, let fly an arrow at a ſtag, which ſuddenly ſtarted before him; the arrow by accident ſtruck the King in the breaſt, and he inſtantly expired. Tyrell haſtened to the ſea ſide and joined the cruſade, by way of pennance, for his involuntary regicide. The King's body was found by the country people, and buried without pomp at Wincheſter.

His figure was mean, his features ordinary, and his hair red.

Hiſtorians repreſent William Rufus as a violent and tyrannical Prince; a perfidious and dangerous neighbour, an unkind relation, and a ſcoffer at religion. He was both prodigal and rapacious. He died in the year 1100, having lived 44 years, and reigned near 18.

Number XII.

The Shipwreck of Prince HENRY, Son of HENRY I.

HENRY I. *ſurnamed Beauclerk, or the Scholar.*

WHEN William died, his brother Robert, according to the treaty between them ſhould have ſucceeded to his kingdom, but he was abſent on the Cruſade, and his brother Henry, being on the ſpot, got himſelf elected King, and was crowned in leſs than three days after William's deceaſe. About a month afterward Robert returned to Normandy, and in a ſhort time invaded England with

with the hope of recovering the crown; at length it was agreed, that Henry ſhould continue King, and pay Robert an annual penſion, and that the friends of each ſide ſhould be reſtored to all their poſſeſſions. This treaty Henry broke, which brought on a war betwixt him and Robert; the army of the latter was defeated, and Henry having got poſſeſſion of Normandy, returned into England, carrying his brother with him, whom he kept in captivity the remainder of his life, which was twenty years.

Henry had an only ſon named William, who had reached his 18th year. Having had this Prince acknowledged as his ſucceſſor in England, the King took him to Normandy that he might receive the homage of the barons as their future ſovereign. In their return the King ſailed with a fair wind, and was ſoon out of ſight of land; but the

Prince

Prince being detained a little while, the captain of the veſſel and his crew ſpent the time in drinking, and in their hurry to follow the King, they ran their ſhip upon a rock, where it immediately foundered. Prince William was put into the long-boat, but hearing the cries of his ſiſter, the counteſs of Perche, he ordered the ſeamen to row back to ſave her, but ſuch numbers crowded into the boat that it ſunk, and the Prince, with his whole retinue periſhed. About 140 young noblemen of the principal families in England were loſt; the only perſon on board who eſcaped was a butcher of Rouen, who clung to the maſt, and was ſaved by a fiſherman the next morning. Fitz Stephen, the captain, as ſoon as he heard the Prince was drowned, threw himſelf headlong into the ſea.

By this fatal accident Henry was puniſhed for

for his cruelty to his brother Robert, and for breaking his treaty, by endeavouring to get Normandy for his ſon, when this unhappy Prince had a ſon living. England in all probability would have found a tyrant in Prince Willliam, if he had lived to come to the throne, for he hated the Engliſh, and had been heard to threaten, that when he ſhould be King, he would make them draw the plough, and turn them into beaſts of burden.

When Henry heard that his ſon was loſt, he fainted away, and never afterwards recovered his wonted chearfulneſs.

William, the ſon of Duke Robert, made ſome powerful friends, and endeavoured to recover Normandy, but loſt his life in battle.

For ſome time the King reſided in Normandy, but hearing that the Welch had made

made an incurſion into England, he was preparing to return thither, when he was ſeized with a ſudden illneſs, after eating too freely of lampreys, and died in the ſixty-ſeventh year of his age, and thirty-fifth of his reign, leaving by will all his dominions to his daughter, the empreſs Matilda, without mentioning Geoffrey her huſband, who had given him diſpleaſure.

Though Henry the firſt had ſome vices, and was very blameable for his cruelty to his brother Robert, he was in many reſpects a very accompliſhed Prince extremely pleaſing in his perſon and addreſs; very brave and eloquent, and, for the age he lived in, a very good ſcholar.

This King granted a charter to London, with great privileges, which ſeems to have been the firſt ſtep towards making that city a corporation.

TABLE X.

Family of Henry I.

WIVES.

1. MATILDA, Daughter of Malcolm, third King of Scotland, and Niece to Edward Atheling.
2. ADELAIS, Daughter of Godfrey, Duke of Louvain.

The CHILDREN of Matilda were,

1. WILLIAM, who was drowned at sea.
2. MATILDA, married first to the Emperor of Germany, afterward to Geoffrey Plantagenet, Earl of Anjou.

GRANDSON to Henry I.

HENRY, afterward King of England, son of the Empress Matilda.

TABLE XI.

Line of Blois.

Stephen, Grandson to William the Conqueror.

Number XIII.

A BARON'S CASTLE beſieged by the Vaſſals of another BARON.

Reign of STEPHEN.

ADELA, the daughter of William the Conqueror, was married to Stephen, Count of Blois, and brought him ſeveral ſons, among whom, Stephen and Henry, the two youngeſt, had been invited over to England by Henry, who beſtowed upon them great honours, riches, and preferments.

Stephen in return, pretended great attachment

ment to his uncle, and was among the firſt to give teſtimony of zeal and fidelity, when the king required the barons to ſwear that they would receive the empreſs as his ſucceſſor in the throne; but no ſooner was Henry dead, than Stephen broke through all ties of gratitude, and haſtened over to England, where he found means to obtain, not only the crown, but a large ſum of money which the late king had accumulated. With this treaſure he hired foreign ſoldiers to defend him on his throne, and uſed every means in his power to over-awe thoſe who were diſcontented with his uſurpation.

When Robert, earl of Glouceſter took the oath of allegiance to Stephen at the beginning of his reign, he bound himſelf to acknowledge him as King, no longer than he ſhould keep his promiſes: the clergy and

barons took the oath with the ſame conditions, and the latter required for themſelves the right of fortifying their caſtles, and putting themſelves in a poſture of defence, in conſequence of which, England was immediately filled with their fortreſſes, garriſoned either with their own vaſſals, or licentious ſoldiers; quarrels aroſe among the barons, and wars were carried on with great fury in every quarter of the kingdom: the inferior gentry found themſelves obliged to purchaſe at any rate the protection of ſome neighbouring chieftain; the country was laid waſte, and the moſt ſhocking cruelties exerciſed upon thoſe who were taken captive, in order to make them reveal their treaſures: ſuch were the dreadful effects of the *feudal law!*

The empreſs aſſiſted by Robert, earl of Glouceſter, made powerful attempts to gain the

the kingdom; war and tumult were ſpread in every quarter, the land was left untilled and a grievous famine, the reſult of theſe diſorders, affected both parties. At length the earl of Glouceſter and the king had a battle, in which the latter was taken, and ſoon after thrown into priſon, loaded with irons. Sometime after this, earl Robert fell into the hands of the enemy, and his party were glad to purchaſe his releaſe by ſetting Stephen at liberty.

Civil war and diſcord raged for ſome time, in the midſt of them earl Robert died, and both parties were ſo weakened, that they could ſupport the conteſt no longer, and many of the nobility engaged in a new cruſade at the preaching of St. Bernard.

In the mean while prince Henry, ſon to the empreſs, grew to man's eſtate and formed very powerful alliances, being encouraged

by ſome intelligence which he received, he invaded England; however, it was agreed that Stephen ſhould poſſeſs the crown during his life, and that Henry ſhould ſucceed him. When he had received the homage of the barons as heir to the crown, prince Henry left the kingdom, and the next year Stephen died.

This monarch gained the throne unjuſtly, and was never happy in it, though he had natural endowments which would have been greatly admired, if he had inherited the crown by a juſt title, and it muſt be ſaid of him, that he never ſhewed a cruel diſpoſition; he was very handſome. He died in the year 1154, having reigned eighteen years.

TABLE XII.

Family of Stephen.

WIFE.

MATILDA, Heireſs of Bologne,

CHILDREN.

1. EUSTACE. His Father gave up Normandy to him, and he did Homage for it to Lewis VI. of France. He died before his Father.

2. WILLIAM. He was Earl of Bologne after his father's Death in Right of his Mother.

TABLE XIII.

The Line of Plantagenet.

1. HENRY II. - - - - - - - - - - - 1154
2. RICHARD I. - - - - - - - - - - - 1189
3. JOHN. - - - - - - - - 1199
4. HENRY III. - - - - - - - 1216
5. EDWARD I. - - - - - - 1272
6. EDWARD II. - - - - - - 1307
7. EDWARD III. - - - - - - 1327
8. RICHARD II. - - - - - - 1377.

Number XIV.

PILGRIMS at the Tomb of THOMAS-A-BECKET.

HENRY II.

1154 WHEN Henry arrived in England, he
1189 was welcomed with the moſt joyful acclama-
1199 tions. The empreſs gave up her right in
1216 favour of her ſon, and he began his reign
1272 very prudently.
1307
1327 This king, at his acceſſion to the throne,
1377. enjoyed great advantages over the king of France. The provinces he poſſeſſed on the continent, compoſed a third of the whole French monarchy.

Lewis, king of France, was alarmed at the riſing grandeur of the houſe of Anjou, or Plantagenet, and in order to prevent its increaſing, he had ever maintained a ſtrict union with Stephen; but after his death it was in vain to oppoſe Henry.

Soon after the king had ſettled affairs in England to his wiſhes, he went abroad to oppoſe his brother Geoffrey, who had uſurped ſome of his foreign dominions. Leſt Lewis ſhould be his enemy, Henry paid him a viſit, and an alliance was formed, in which a ridiculous agreement was made, like children's play, that young Henry, heir to the Engliſh monarch, who was only five years old, ſhould have for his wife princeſs Margaret of France, who was then in her cradle.

Another alliance of the ſame nature was formed with the duke of Brittany; that the king's third ſon, a very young infant, ſhould be

be married to the duke's little daughter, of the ſame age. The duke died ſoon after, and Henry, as guardian of his ſon and daughter-in-law, obtained Brittany. Some differences aroſe afterward between him and the king of France, on which Henry inſiſted, that the marriage of the little prince and princeſs ſhould be ſolemnized immediately, that he might gain a province which was part of her dower. Lewis, enraged at this, threatened to make war upon England, but the difference was accommodated by the pope, and Henry returned to England, where he engaged in an enterprize that occaſioned him great diſquietude.

The clergy had got ſo much power in their hands, that it became neceſſary to determine who ſhould be ſovereign, the king or the archbiſhop of Canterbury. Henry reſolved not to ſubmit, as his predeceſſor had

had done, but concealed his purpoſe during the life of Euſtace, who was at that time archbiſhop of Canterbury, becauſe he was a very antient man, and of an amiable character; but, as ſoon as this good prelate was dead, the king made Thomas-a-Becket, his chancellor, archbiſhop, who he thought would comply with his will; but he was miſtaken, for no ſooner was Becket advanced to his new dignity, than he totally altered his behaviour, and broke off all communication with the king, under pretence of applying himſelf to the duties of his archbiſhoprick.

In order to paſs with the world as a perſon of extraordinary piety and mortification, Becket wore ſackcloth next his ſkin, fed upon bread and water, tore his back with whips and ſcourges, waſhed the feet of thirteen beggars every day, and ſeemed to be continually

continually engaged, either in acts of religion or meditation. He kept up, however, the uſual pomp of the archbiſhop in the grandeur of his retinue.

His behaviour ſo provoked the king, that they lived in a ſtate of conſtant hoſtility; the clergy ſupporting Becket as far as they dared, and the barons eſpouſing the king's party; at one time Becket was deprived of his dignities and eſtates, and baniſhed the kingdom; afterward he was reinſtated with an increaſe of power, and the king ſubmitted to hold the ſtirrup of the arrogant prelate while he mounted his horſe. In ſhort, matters were carried to a deſperate height, and the kingdom thrown into confuſion through theſe contentions. At length four gentlemen of the royal houſhold, judging from a paſſionate expreſſion which the king made uſe of, that he wiſhed to get rid

of

of his adverſary, agreed together to avenge their prince's quarrel; for this purpoſe they rode to Canterbury, followed Becket to the altar, aſſaulted him, and knocked him on the head, and then retired without oppoſition.

The news of this murder ſo afflicted the king, that he ſhut himſelf up, and for three days refuſed to eat or drink, becauſe he thought he ſhould bear the blame of it, and incur the reſentment of the pope; however, no immediate ill conſequences aroſe to him, but the clergy magnified the ſanctity of Becket, and two years after his death he was canonized, or reckoned among the ſaints; his body was then removed to a magnificent ſhrine, enriched with preſents from all parts, and it was computed that in one year, an hundred thouſand pilgrims arrived at Canterbury, and paid adoration at his tomb.

Such

Such was the ſuperſtition of the times!

The Iriſh, who were never invaded by the Romans, remained, till the reign of Henry, in a rude barbarous ſtate, he formed the project of conquering them, and finding them at war among themſelves, he eaſily effected his purpoſe; ſo Ireland was annexed to the crown of England; but the natives retained great hatred againſt their conquerors.

Number XV.

The CORPSE of HENRY II. his Son RICHARD lamenting over it.

WHEN Henry ſeemed to be at the height of grandeur and felicity, both in reſpect to his kingdom and family, his ſons revolted

revolted againſt him. Henry, the eldeſt, was brave, liberal, munificent, and affable; but he wanted diſcretion, and ſuffered himſelf to be perſuaded by his father-in-law, the king of France, to deſire to have either the crown of England, or the dutchy of Normandy reſigned to him in his father's life time. On the king's refuſing, the prince ſhewed great diſcontent, ſpoke very diſreſpectfully of the king, and went away to the court of France. The queen alſo incenſed her two youngeſt ſons, Geoffrey and Richard, againſt their royal father, and adviſed them to fly ſecretly to France, whither ſhe was preparing to follow them, diſguiſed in men's cloaths, when ſhe was ſeized, by order of her huſband, and thrown into priſon.

Thus Europe ſaw with aſtoniſhment, the beſt and moſt indulgent of parents, at war with his whole family: three boys requiring a great

great monarch, in the full vigour of his ge, and height of his reputation, to de-hrone himſelf in their favour; ſeveral prin-es, and many noblemen, not aſhamed to rotect and aſſiſt them in this unnatural and bſurd pretention; among the firſt, Lewis, ing of France was the principal, and among he latter, the earl of Leiceſter; but he was efeated and taken priſoner, as was alſo the ing of Scotland, who at the ſame time in-aded England with a great army.

Henry made every conceſſion that he ould make, conſiſtently with the dignity of is crown, for he longed to be reconciled to is ſons: at length they made their ſub-miſſion, and the king agreed to pay each f them penſions, and allow them caſtles or their reſidence; he alſo reſtored their ad-erents to their eſtates, and ſet the king of cotland at liberty, and about 900 knights,

on

on condition, that the king and all his nobles ſhould do homage to him as their ſovereign, which they ſoon after performed. This was the firſt important advantage which England gained over Scotland. Sometime after this, Lewis, king of France, was by an apoplexy, deprived of the uſe of his underſtanding, and his ſon Philip, a youth of fifteen, governed in his ſtead; the king of England was very kind to him, in compoſing differences which aroſe between him and his mother and uncles; but as ſoon as he came to man's eſtate, he encouraged Henry's ſons in their undutiful behaviour to their father. Prince Henry renewed his demands, and all the three brothers quarrelled; the king with ſome difficulty reconciled them, and immediately after his eldeſt ſon appeared in arms againſt him; but in the midſt of theſe undutiful proceedings, he was ſeized with

ith a fever, and finding his end approach-
ng, he was ſtruck with remorſe, and ſent to
he king, expreſſing his contrition and im-
loring the favour of a viſit, that he might
leaſt die with the ſatisfaction of having
btained forgiveneſs; but his behaviour had
een ſo bad that the king ſuſpected it to be
pretended ſickneſs, and did not dare to
uſt himſelf in his ſon's hands; but on hear-
ng of his death, this good prince was af-
ected with the deepeſt ſorrow.

After the death of their elder brother, the
wo other princes perſevered in their ill-treat-
ment of their father; but Geoffrey was ſoon
fter killed. Richard, who was now the el-
eſt ſon, was ſupported by the king of France,
nd through the cowardice of Henry's go-
vernors, they gained advantage over him,
nd his ſpirit being broken by ill treatment,
e ſubmitted to do what was required of him.

When

When he demaned a list of the barons, to whom he was bound to grant a pardon for their connection with Richard, he was surprized to find his son John's name at the head of them, for he had always been his particular favourite.

The unhappy father, already overloaded with cares and sorrows, on this disappointment, broke out into expressions of the utmost despair, and pronounced a curse on his ungrateful children, which he could never be prevailed on to retract. His uneasiness of mind threw him into a lingering fever, of which he expired at the castle of Chinon, near Samur.

The next day Richard came to view the body of his father, and was struck with such horror and remorse at the sight of it, that he cried out in the agony of his mind, *I have been the murderer of my father!*

Henry

Henry the IId. died in the year 1189, in the fifty-eighth year of his age, and thirty-fifth of his reign. He was the greateſt prince of his time for wiſdom, virtue, and abilities, and had the largeſt extent of dominion of any king who had ever ſat upon the throne of England.

He was of a middle ſtature, well made, very lively and engaging in converſation, and eloquent, and he was remarkably abſtemious.

In the time of this king there were dreadful riots in London.

TABLE XIV.

Family of Henry II.

WIFE.

ELEANOR of Poitou.

SONS.

1. HENRY, married to Margaret of France, Daughter to Lewis VII, and died before his Father.
2. RICHARD, surnamed *Cœur de Lion*, he succeeded his Father.
3. GEOFFREY, married Constance, Heiress of Brittany, he died before his Father.
4. JOHN, surnamed Lackland, he was after Richard's Death King of England.

DAUGHTERS.

1. MAUD, married to Henry Duke of Saxony.
2. ELEANOR, married to Alphonso, King of Castile.
3. JOAN, married to William King of Sicily.

GRANDSON.

ARTHUR, son of Geoffrey.

Number XVI.

King RICHARD and his Followers ſetting off on the Cruſade.

RICHARD I. furnamed COEUR DE LION, on Account of his extraordinary Courage,

CAME to the throne without oppoſition. He ſhewed that his compunction for his undutiful behaviour to his good father was ſincere, by chuſing for his miniſters thoſe who had been the moſt faithful to the deceaſed king. He alſo releaſed his mother from the confinement in which ſhe had long been kept, and intruſted the government of

England to her, till his arrival in that kingdom. He was beſides very bountiful to his brother John.

Being deſirous of acquiring glory, Richard reſolved to go to the cruſade, and informed his ſubjects of his intention on the day of his coronation. He knew that he muſt carry with him all the money neceſſary for his enterprize. His father had left him a large ſum; but this he did not think ſufficient, ſo in order to increaſe it, he put to ſale all the revenues of the crown, and the offices of the greateſt truſt and power, and when ſome of his miniſters objected to theſe proceedings, he ſaid, he would ſell London itſelf, if he could find a purchaſer, and he actually ſold the vaſſalage of Scotland, the greateſt acquiſition that had been made by his father, and obliged his ſubjects to lend him

him ſums which they knew he never would repay.

He appointed Hugh, biſhop of Durham, and Longchamp, biſhop of Ely, guardians of the realm in his abſence.

Numbers of the king's ſubjects were as impatient as himſelf to go to the holy war, and the king of France, who was alſo going upon the ſame expedition, ſent to haſten his departure. The two princes arrived with a combined army of 100,000 men, they promiſed to be cordial friends, and then ſeparated; but repeated diſcords broke out between theſe two jealous and haughty princes. Immediately after Richard left England, the two prelates whom he had appointed guardians of the kingdom, diſagreed, and threw the nation into confuſion. Longchamp cauſed his colleague to be arreſted, and with the utmoſt pride and arrogance, took upon

him to govern by himself, and even defied the orders which the king sent to restrain him; but prince John interfered, and Longchamp thought proper to fly beyond sea.

Philip of France, who returned from the holy war before Richard, notwithstanding all his promises, took every opportunity of annoying Richard's dominions, and would have invaded Normany, if his nobles had not refused to follow him, and he drew prince John from his allegiance. The king of England continued to gain glory in the crusade, and the king of France grew every day more and more jealous of him, and contrived by every means in his power to hurt his reputation.

After having performed many valiant exploits, and obtained a great victory over the Saracens, Richard advanced within sight of Jerusalem, when he found, to his great

great disappointment, that he must put a stop to the career of victory. All the crusaders, except himself, were tired out, and wished to return home. A truce for three years was made with Saladin, the emperor of the Saracens, and one of the conditions was, that the pilgrims should be allowed to make their pilgrimages unmolested.

Saladin died at Damascus soon after, and before he expired, ordered his winding sheet to be carried as a standard through every street of the city, while a crier proclaimed with a loud voice, *This is all that remains to the mighty Saladin, the conqueror of the East.* By his last will he ordered charities to be distributed to the poor, without distinction of Jew, Turk, or Mahometan.

In his return to England, Richard, being fearful of passing through France, disguised himself like a pilgrim, with the purpose of

going through Germany; but at Vienna, he betrayed himſelf by his expenſes, and was arreſted by order of Leopold, duke of Auſtria, to whom he had formerly given ſome affront. The emperor, Henry VI. required the royal priſoner to be given up to him. Thus the king of England, who had filled the whole world with his renown, found himſelf, during the moſt critical ſtate of his affairs, confined in a dungeon, loaded with irons, and entirely at the mercy of his enemies.

The king of France prepared to take advantage of Richard's confinement, and prevailed on prince John to join with him againſt a brother and a ſovereign who had treated him with the utmoſt liberality; and Philip having made a treaty with John, invaded Normandy, but was repulſed in every attack.

Prince

Prince John, who went over to England, was ſtill leſs ſucceſsful; when he claimed the kingdom as heir to his brother, of whoſe death he pretended to have heard, he was rejected by all the barons, and was ſoon obliged to retire to France. Richard ſuffered in Germany every kind of inſult and indignity; but he was ſtill *Cœur de Lion*, and the emperor ſoon thought proper to reſtore him to his freedom, on being paid for his ranſom 150,000 marks; about 300,000 *l.* of our money. Richard haſtened to England, where he was welcomed with joy, and crowned anew. All prince John's eſtates were confiſcated, or ſeized for the king, and Richard made preparations for revenging himſelf on Philip. A war ſoon broke out between France and England, during which prince John deſerted from Philip, and threw himſelf at his brother's feet: queen Eleanor interceded

terceded for him, on which the king ſaid, "I forgive him, and hope I ſhall as eaſily forget his injuries, as he will my pardon."

About this time the duke of Auſtria cruſhed his leg by a fall from his horſe, a fever enſued, and being ſtruck with remorſe for his treatment of Richard, he ordered by his will, all the Engliſh hoſtages in his hands, to be ſet at liberty; and the debt which Richard owed him to be remitted. The emperor alſo ſought the king's friendſhip; a treaty was ſet on foot for a durable peace between France and England; but before it was concluded the king was unfortunately wounded by one Bernard de Geurdon, an archer, whoſe father and brother he had killed. The wound was in the ſhoulder, and proved mortal. The king died of it in 1199, in the tenth year of his reign, and forty-ſecond of his age.

This

This prince was paſſionately fond of military glory, and was well qualified for acquiring it; he was of an impetuous vehement temper, revengeful, ambitious, haughty and cruel; but at the ſame time open, frank, generous, ſincere, and brave. He was much beloved by his Engliſh ſubjects, and was the firſt ſince the conqueſt that ſhewed any ſincere regard to them.

Though he had ſpent ſo much treaſure, he deſigned to have gone on another cruſade, if his death had not prevented him.

It was during the holy wars, that the cuſtom of uſing coats of arms was firſt introduced into Europe. The knights, caſed up in armour, had no other way to make themſelves known, but by the devices on their ſhields, and theſe were gradually adopted by their poſterity and families, who were proud of their anceſtors.

The diſorders in London roſe to ſo dreadful a height in this king's reign, that murders and robberies were daily committed in the ſtreets. It is ſaid, that no leſs than 52,000 perſons had bound themſelves by oath, to obey all the orders of William Fitz-Oſbert, a moſt dangerous ruffian, but he was at laſt condemned, and executed.

King Richard was a great lover of poetry, and there ſtill remain ſome poetical works of his compoſition.

TABLE XV.

Wife of Richard I.

BERENGERA of Navarre.

He had no Children.

Number XVII.

PANDOLF, the POPE'S LEGATE, receives KING JOHN'S Submiſſion.

JOHN.

WHEN king Richard entered in the holy war, he named his nephew, Arthur, duke of Brittany, as his ſucceſſor; but by his laſt will, he bequeathed all his dominions to his brother. John accordingly came to the throne of England without oppoſition; but ſeveral of the provinces in France declared for young Arthur. Philip, who was glad of a pretence to embarraſs John, took Arthur, who was then only twelve years of age, under

der his protection, and ſent him to Paris to be educated with his own ſon.

John ſoon returned to carry on the war with the king of France; and Conſtantia, the young prince's mother, being doubtful of Philip's ſincerity, conveyed her ſon ſecretly to his uncle, her brother: ſoon after this a treaty was made between the kings of England and France.

The next year rebellion broke out in Poitou and Normandy; the Engliſh barons refuſed to paſs the ſea with the king, unleſs he would promiſe to reſtore and preſerve their privileges; however, John, by his threats, engaged many of them to follow him into Normandy, and he treated thoſe in France with ſuch haughtineſs and oppreſſion, that they were provoked to appeal to the king of France, and a war was begun between him and John. The young

prince

prince Arthur, who was now riſing to man's eſtate, joined with them, and they gained very great advantages.

Prince Arthur, regarding his grandmother, queen Eleanor, as his enemy, beſieged the place, where ſhe was, in hopes of taking her priſoner; but this undutiful act was followed with dreadful conſequences to him.

John collected an army, and came to his mother's relief, and Arthur, and all the moſt conſiderable of the diſcontented barons were taken priſoners: the latter were ſent over to England, but Arthur was ſhut up in the caſtle of Falaiſe.

The king here held a conference with him, and endeavoured to perſuade him to renounce his foreign alliances; but the brave young prince ſcorned his offers of friendſhip, and aſſerted his claim to the French provinces, and the crown of England. John, fearing

fearing that Arthur would prove a dangerous enemy, determined to diſpatch him, and he was never heard of more.

It is ſaid that the cruel king, not being able to prevail on others to commit the horrid act, removed Arthur to the caſtle of Rouen, and going in himſelf by a back way, in the dead of the night, commanded the unhappy prince to be brought before him, and deaf to all his entreaties for mercy, ſtabbed him with his own hand, and faſtening a ſtone to his body, threw it into the Seine.

All men were ſtruck with horror at this inhuman deed, and from that time the king, deteſted by his ſubjects, found his authority greatly weakened. In addition to his cruelty to Arthur, he got that prince's ſiſter, Eleanor, into his power, and kept her ever after in captivity.

The

The king of France tried to expel John from that country; John made a feeble attempt to prevent him, and then, like a coward, gave himself up to indolence and luxury: his barons left him, and he lost all his French provinces and Normandy, and they were added to the crown of France.

The two following years John pretended to make preparations for recovering his French dominions; but returned with shame and disgrace. Shortly after he had a quarrel with the court of Rome, and was at last obliged to submit to the pope's authority in the most humiliating manner. Pandolf, the pope's ambassador, seated himself upon the throne, and the king came disarmed into his presence, flung himself on his knees before him, lifted up his joined hands, and put them within those of Pandolf; he then swore

fealty

fealty to the pope, and agreed to pay tribute to him for his kingdom.

Number XVIII.

KING JOHN granting MAGNA CHARTA.

HENRY the firſt had granted a charter, or writing, to his ſubjects, in many reſpects favourable to their liberties, Stephen had renewed it, Henry II. had confirmed it. Langton, who was archbiſhop of Canterbury in John's reign, ſhewed the barons a copy of Henry the firſt's charter, and adviſed them to inſiſt on a renewal of it: this they bound themſelves by an oath to do, and in the month of January appeared in London to make their demand. The king promiſed to give

give them a positive answer the Easter following; in the mean time he tried to engage the clergy in his favour, and the pope wrote letters to put an end, if possible, to the disturbances that had arisen; but the barons, on the approach of Easter, assembled an army, and advanced in a body to Brockly, within fifteen miles of Oxford, where the court resided. At first the king refused to grant what was demanded of him, but all the rest of the barons joined with those who had first applied for the renewal of the charter; the king's parks were laid waste, his retinue was reduced to seven knights only, and he was obliged to submit at discretion.

A conference was then appointed between the king and the barons at Runnemede, between Windsor and Staines, where the two parties encamped, like open enemies, and after

fter a debate of a few days, the king ſigned nd ſealed the charter which was required of im. This famous deed, commonly called MAGNA CHARTA, or the GREAT CHARTER, ither granted or ſecured, very important li- erties and privileges to every order of men n the kingdom, to the clergy, to the ba- ons, and to the people.

The king affected to fall into all the mea- ures of the barons; but this was diſſimula- ion, and he was determined, at all hazards, o rid himſelf of what he regarded as the moſt ignominious ſlavery, and take revenge on his enemies; and ſhortly after, having ob- tained the ſanction of the pope, he threw off he maſk, and recalled all the liberties he had ſolemnly ſworn to grant: this renewed he civil wars, and John found that his no- bility and people, even the clergy, adhered

to

to the defence of their liberties, and that he had nothing to truſt to, but hired ſoldiers; he proceeded with great inveteracy againſt the barons, and drove them to ſuch extremities, that they were obliged to ſend to France, and they offered to acknowledge Lewis, the eldeſt ſon of Philip, as their ſovereign, if he would afford them protection. The wife of Lewis was Bianche, of Caſtile, who was deſcended by her mother from Henry II. Lewis went over with a ſmall army, and as ſoon as he appeared, John's foreign troops deſerted, and refuſed to ſerve againſt the heir to the kingdom of France, and the prince was in a fair way of gaining the throne of England, when the barons received information, that he intended to extirminate them and their familles, and give their dignities to his native ſubjects: this occaſioned the

earl

earl of Salisbury and other noblemen to return to John's party.

The king was assembling a considerable army, in order to fight one great battle for his crown; but passing along the sea coast, he lost, by an inundation, all his carriages, treasures, baggage, and regalia. He was before much indisposed, and his affliction at this disaster increased his illness, and obliged him to halt at Newark, where he very soon after died.

This king was of a most vicious disposition, and his ill conduct greatly lessened his dominions.

He died October 17, 1216, in the forty-ninth year of his age, and the eighteenth of his reign.

He was the first who gave to the citizens of London a charter for electing a mayor, and

and common-council men annually, and for electing and removing ſheriffs at pleaſure.

London Bridge was finiſhed in this reign; the former bridge was of wood.

The empreſs Maud was the firſt who built a ſtone bridge in England.

TABLE XVI.

Family of John.

WIFE.

ISABELLA of Angouleme.

SONS.

1. HENRY, who ſucceeded him.
2. RICHARD.

DAUGHTERS.

1. JANE, afterwards married to Alexander, King of Scotland.
2. ELEANOR, married firſt to the Earl of Pembroke, afterwards to the Earl of Leiceſter.
3. ISABELLA, married to the Emperor Frederick II.

Number XIX.

HENRY on entering the PARLIAMENT HOUSE, finds the BARONS clad in Armour.

HENRY III.

THE cauſe of this young prince was zealouſly eſpouſed by the earl of Pembroke, who being at the head of the government, had power enough to get him crowned; and that he might be well received, the earl made him grant new charters of liberties. Theſe famous charters have ever ſince been highly prized, and zealouſly maintained by Engliſhmen.

Pembroke

Pembroke alſo took great pains to reconcile the barons to the king; and as the party of Henry increaſed, that of Lewis became weaker; at length peace was concluded, Lewis promiſed to leave the kingdom, and the civil wars were happily ended.

After the expulſion of the French, the protector acted with the greateſt prudence, and endeavoured, by every poſſible mean, to bury all paſt animoſities in oblivion; but he died ſoon after. When he was dead, the furious barons, who would not be reſtrained by the ſucceeding miniſters, though they were good men, kept poſſeſſion of the royal caſtles, oppreſſed their vaſſals, infeſted their weaker neighbours, and invited all diſorderly people to live upon their lands. It is ſaid that the number of caſtles in England at that time amounted to 1115. As the king advanced in years, he was found to be every

way unqualified for maintaining a proper ſway among the turbulent barons. Through the capriciouſneſs of his temper, he deprived himſelf of the ſage councils of Hubert de Burgh, who, together with Peter des Roches, biſhop of Wincheſter, had the management of affairs after the death of Lord Pembroke.

The biſhop of Wincheſter was a man of courage and abilities; but very ambitious and violent; by his advice Henry invited over a great number of foreigners, on whom every office and command was beſtowed; many young ladies alſo came over from Provence, and were married to ſome of the chief noblemen in England.

Henry paid very little regard to the *Great Charter*, and reduced himſelf by his imprudence to urgent neceſſities, and when his parliament refuſed him ſupplies, he obliged his opulent ſubjects, particularly the citizens of London,

London, to grant him loans of money. He demanded *benevolences*, or voluntary contributions, from his nobility and prelates; at last he was obliged to sell all his plate and jewels to the citizens, in order to pay his debts.

The parliament, on his frequent breach of promise, obliged him to ratify the Great Charter in the most solemn manner by oath; but even this did not bind him.

Encouraged by the king's illegal proceedings, Simon de Montford, earl of Leicester, tried to get the kingdom from him. This nobleman was famous for his exploits at the holy wars, and was possessed of great property, both in France and England. He married Eleanor, dowager of William, earl of Pembroke, and sister to the king, which offended the barons. The earl endeavoured to gain the affections of all ranks of peo-

ple by his inſinuating addreſs; he was baniſhed by Henry, but the fickle monarch ſoon recalled him.

In a very ſhort time Leiceſter prevailed on a number of noblemen to join with him againſt the king, and the barons came to a reſolution to take the government into their own hands.

Henry having ſummoned a parliament, in expectation of receiving ſupplies, the barons appeared in the hall in complete armour, with their ſwords by their ſides. Henry, amazed at the ſight, aſked them, if they were going to make him their priſoner; they replied No; but that as he had frequently broke his promiſes with his parliament, he muſt now ſubmit to the authority of thoſe who were able and willing to redreſs the national grievances.

Number

Shortly after, twenty-four barons were inveſted with unlimited authority to reform the ſtate, and the king took an oath to maintain whatever ordinances they ſhould think proper to enact.

Leiceſter was at the head of this ſupreme council, which took away all power from the king; but the barons gradually loſt the favour of the people, and the king threatened that he would ſpend the laſt drop of his blood in ſatisfying the wiſhes of his ſubjects, and perceiving a proſpect of recovering his authority, he wrote to the pope, who pretended to abſolve him and his people from the oath they had taken.

Prince Edward, though in early youth, deteſted the thought of breaking a ſolemn

promiſe, and declared, that he would abide by what he had ſworn to.

This fidelity gained him the confidence of all parties, and enabled him to recover the royal authority, and to perform great actions.

Parties however ran very high; the barons roſe in arms, and Leiceſter at the head of them, and dreadful ravages enſued.

Edward was taken priſoner by them, and the king, in order to recover this brave prince's liberty, was obliged to ſubmit to the moſt ignominious conditions; but as ſoon as Edward was releaſed, he raiſed a powerful party.

The king of France, Lewis the IXth. was referred to, who ſummoned the ſtates

of

of France, and in the preſence of this aſſembly, as well as in that of the king of England, Peter de Montford, Leiceſter's ſon, brought this great cauſe to a trial. The king of France, who was remarkable for his juſtice and integrity, paſſed a moſt equitable ſentence; but Leiceſter and his party rejected it, and the civil wars were renewed with great violence. The prince diſplayed uncommon courage; but the king was unfortunately taken priſoner, and Edward was ſhortly after obliged to ſubmit to Leiceſter's terms: however, after ſometime, the earl of Glouceſter, who had quarrelled with Leiceſter, contrived with the prince a plan for his eſcaping, which was happily effected. The royaliſts now flew to arms, and a force was collected which Leiceſter could not withſtand; a great battle was fought at Eveſham, in which he was killed, with his

eldeſt ſon Hugh le Deſpenſer, and about 160 knights, and many other gentlemen. The old king, who was placed in the front of the battle, received a wound, and was in danger of his life, but crying out, I am Henry of Wincheſter, your king, he was conveyed to a place of ſafety by his ſon, who came to his reſcue.

After this victory almoſt all the barons ſubmitted, except Adam Gordon, who obliged the prince to lead an army againſt him: in the ardour of battle Edward leaped over the trench, and encountered Gordon in ſingle combat; after a ſharp conteſt Gordon fell from his horſe, but the prince generouſly gave him his life, and was ever after faithfully ſerved by him.

The king was now once more reſtored to his throne, and through his clemency, and the prince's prudence, order gradually took place in the ſtate. Edward

Edward having accompliſhed the ſettlement of the kingdom, went to the holy war, where he ſignalized himſelf by his valiant acts, and revived the glory of the Engliſh name in thoſe parts; but he was wounded in the arm by an aſſaſſin, whom he killed.

During his abſence the laws were not well executed, the barons oppreſſed the common people, and the old king greatly wiſhed for his gallant ſon's return to aſſiſt him: at length, overcome with the cares of government, and the infirmities of old age, he died at St. Edmondſbury, Nov. 16, 1272, in the ſixty-fourth year of his age, and fifty-ſixth of his reign; the longeſt reign of any king of England.

This king's too eaſy yielding temper rather than premeditated treachery, was the cauſe of his frequent breach of promiſe, and many other faults. Inſtead of ſetting

a good example to his nobles, he was induced to imitate their conduct. Had his abilities been as good as his diſpoſition, he would have made a much better monarch than he did.

This king granted a charter to the town of Newcaſtle to dig coals: this is the firſt mention of coals in England.

In order to increaſe his popularity, the earl of Leiceſter ordered returns to be made of two knights from each ſhire, and of deputies from the boroughs, and this is ſuppoſed to have been the origin of the Houſe of Commons.

TABLE XVII.

Family of Henry III.

WIFE.

ELEANOR of Provence.

SONS.

1. EDWARD, who ſucceeded him.
2. EDMUND, Earl of Lancaſter.

DAUGHTERS.

1. MARGARET, married to Alexander, King of Scotland.
2. BEATRICE, married to the Duke of Brittany.

Number XX.

EDWARD I. preſenting his infant SON to the WELCH, as a PRINCE born amongſt them.

EDWARD I.

AS ſoon as Henry was dead the Engliſh haſtened to proclaim Edward king: this prince had reached Sicily in his return from the Holy Land, when he received the news of his father's death, which gave him great concern, at the ſame time he learnt, that an infant ſon was dead; as he appeared much leſs affected at this misfortune, the king of Sicily expreſſed his ſurprize, but was told by Edward, that the loſs of a ſon

ſon might be repaired, that of a father was irreparable.

When this valiant prince arrived in England, he was welcomed with the moſt joyful acclamations, and crowned at Weſtminſter.

He carefully confirmed the privileges of the GREAT CHARTER, and paid proper attention to the adminiſtration of juſtice; but he was in ſome inſtances ſevere, and to the Jews very cruel. The coin of the kingdom was greatly adulterated; this was all laid to the Jews, and in order to puniſh them for it, 280 of them were hanged at one time in London only, beſides thoſe who ſuffered in other parts of the kingdom, their houſes, lands, and goods, were ſold, and confiſcated to the crown; ſometime after this, to clear the country of them, and ſeize at once on all their property, they were ordered to leave the kingdom,

and

and the king left them only money enough to bear their charges into foreign parts, where new perſecutions awaited them, and before they departed the inhabitants of the cinque ports diſpoiled them even of this ſmall pittance, and threw ſome of them into the ſea. No leſs than 15000 Jews were at this time robbed of their effects, and baniſhed the kingdom, ſince which time very few Jews have lived in England. Before their baniſhment, the Jews were the only lenders of money upon intereſt; afterward this practice was exerciſed by the Engliſh themſelves to their fellow citizens, or by Lombards, and other foreigners.

The active ſpirit of Edward could not remain without ſome employment, ſo he reſolved to chaſtiſe the prince of Wales, becauſe he had taken part with the rebels in the late reign, and had refuſed to go to England

England to do homage to him as his ſovereign. When the war had been carried on a little while, the prince, whoſe name was Llewellyn, was ſlain, and David, who ſucceeded him, being betrayed to the enemy, was carried in chains to Shrewſbury, and there hanged drawn and quartered as a traitor, for defending by arms the liberties of his native country, and his own hereditary right, which was very cruel treatment.

All the Welch nobility ſubmitted to the conqueror, the laws of England were eſtabliſhed in this principality, and the conqueſt, which had required eight hundred years fully to effect, was completed by Edward. From a ſuſpicion that the *Welch Bards* might, by their poetry and muſic, revive in the minds of their countrymen the idea of military valour and ancient glory, the conqueror ordered them to be put to death.

It

It is said that Edward, having assembled the Welch, promised to give them a prince of unexceptionable manners, a Welchman by birth, and one who could speak no other language. On their acclamations of joy, and promise of obedience, he presented to them his own son Edward, then an infant, who had been born at Caernarvon, and whom he invested in the principality.

The death of the king's eldest son soon after made young Edward heir to the crown; from that time the principality of Wales has given title to the eldest son of the king of England. In less than two years after the settlement of Wales, Edward went abroad, and staid about three years; at his return he found many disorders prevailing in his kingdom, these he endeavoured to correct.

The state of affairs in Scotland gave rise to the most interesting transactions of this reign.

eign. There were ſeveral revolutions in his kingdom, and Edward made repeated efforts to add it to his own dominions. Sometimes the Scotch loſt their kingdom, and then again recovered it: great numbers of the Scotch nobility loſt their lives in different battles. Baliol, one of their kings, was Edward's priſoner for a number of years, and their famous champion, the brave Wallace, having been betrayed into his hands, was, by his command, executed on Towerhill as a rebel.

Edward alſo meditated an invaſion upon France, but met with great oppoſition from the clergy, which provoked him to purſue the moſt violent meaſures: he reduced them to the utmoſt diſtreſs, and obliged them to comply with all his demands; and as the money did not come in faſt enough for him, he extended his rigour to all orders of men. Theſe proceedings

proceedings occaſioned ſuch diſcontent, that the king thought proper to adopt milder ones, and made an apology for the ſteps he had taken, by which mean he prevented a civil war.

Juſt as the king appeared, by the advantages he had gained, to be upon the point of finally accompliſhing his purpoſe againſt Scotland, he was taken ill, and died at Carliſle, Jan. 7, 1307, in the ſixty-ninth year of his age, and thirty-fifth of his reign, hated by his neighbours, but highly reſpected by his own ſubjects. On his death bed he deſired his ſon to continue the enterprize againſt Scotland, and never to deſiſt till he had totally ſubdued it.

This monarch is eſteemed as a model of a politic and a warlike king; but it is ſhocking to think ſuch meaſures as he purſued ſhould

ould ever be thought neceſſary to ag-randize a nation

During his reign the Engliſh law was reatly improved.

The figure of Edward was majeſtick and ell proportioned, excepting that his legs ere uncommonly long, on which account e was furnamed *Longſhanks*.

TABLE

TABLE XVIII.

Family of Edward I.

WIVES.

1. ELEANOR of Caſtile.
2. MARGARET of France.

SONS.

1. EDWARD, who ſucceeded him; he was the Son of Queen Eleanor.
2. THOMAS, Earl of Norfolk, and Earl Marſhall of England, the Son of Queen Margaret.
3. EDMUND, Earl of Kent, the Son of Margaret. He was afterward beheaded.

DAUGHTERS.

1. A DAUGHTER of Queen Margaret, who died an Infant.
2. JOAN, married firſt to the Earl of Glouceſter, and afterward to Ralph de Monthermer.
3. MARGARET, married to John, Duke of Brabant.
4. ELIZABETH, married firſt to John, Earl of Holland, afterward to the Earl of Hereford.
5. MARY. She was a Nun at Ammerſbury. Theſe were the Daughters of Eleanor.

Number XXI.

The KING of ENGLAND flying away from SCOTLAND.

EDWARD II.

WHEN Edward I. died, his ſon was twenty-two years of age, and the Engliſh had conceived ſuch a good opinion of him, that they thought they ſhould be happy under his government; but the firſt act of his reign blaſted their hopes; for inſtead of purſuing the advantages his father had gained, he marched his army a little way into Scotland, and then having no inclination for warlike enterprizes, he diſbanded his army.

He

He next gave offence to his nobles, b
ſhewing great partiality to one Piers Ga
veſton, the ſon of a Gaſcon knight. Th
late king, fearful of the conſequences of th
prince's attachment to this young man, ha
baniſhed him the kingdom, and made h
ſon promiſe never to recall him; but n
ſooner did Edward find himſelf king, than h
ſent for Gaveſton, and loaded him with ho
nours, preferments, and riches, of which h
was exceedingly vain: the king even mad
him guardian of the realm while he wen
to France to eſpouſe the princeſs Iſabella.

The haughty barons did not conceal thei
diſcontent, but combined againſt Gaveſton
and when queen Iſabella arrived, ſhe joine
with the barons, who were headed by Thoma
earl of Leiceſter, couſin german to the queen
who was by far the moſt opulent ſubject i
the kingdom; he was turbulent and factiou

in his diſpoſition, and mortally hated the favourite. The king perſiſted in protecting him; but Leiceſter raiſed an army, and Gaveſton was obliged to ſurrender himſelf priſoner, and was beheaded without any regard to law.

The king was greatly enraged at this; but the barons pacified him by their ſubmiſſion, and the tranquility of the nation was reſtored.

Immediately after Edward's retreat from Scotland, Robert Bruce, who had been crowned king of Scotland, but had fled before Edward the Firſt appeared again in arms, the Scotch nobility in general yielded to his dominion, and the people began to entertain hopes of recovering their ancient independence. A deciſive battle was fought, in which the Scotch army proved victorious, and Edward, to the diſgrace of England, was obliged to fly. This victory fixed Bruce

on

on the throne, and was the greateſt overthrow the Engliſh ever received ſince the conqueſt.

Beſide this diſaſter, there were rebellions in Ireland and Wales, and factions among the nobility at home.

Number XXII.

The KING on his Way to the TOWER.

AFTER the death of Gaveſton, the king's chief favourite was Hugh le Deſpenſer, or Spencer, a young man of Engliſh birth, high rank, aud noble family. His father was of the ſame name, a venerable, upright,

upright valiant man; but young Spenſer was deſtitute both of prudence and moderation.

The king laviſhed favours upon them as he had done upon Gaveſton, and the like conſequences enſued. The barons were outrageous, the Spenſers were obliged to abſent themſelves, the king became contemptible, and civil commotions were carried to a dreadful height.

At length the king took the field in defence of his favourite, with an army of 30,000 men, and the earl of Leiceſter, after flying from place to place, was taken priſoner, and executed in a very ignominious manner.

Queen Iſabella went to France, and contrived to get her ſon into her hands, and when the king required her to return to England, ſhe ſent him word, ſhe would never ſet her foot in the kingdom, 'till the

Spenſers were for ever removed. After this ſhe eſpouſed her ſon to Philippa, daughter of the Count of Holland, and invaded England with an army of 3000 men: on her landing in Suffolk, many of the nobility joined her; the citizens of London refuſed to aſſiſt the king, the queen's party prevailed, and the Tower of London was taken. The two Spenſers fell into the hands of the enemy, and were executed as the earl of Leiceſter had been.

The king fled to Wales, but was ſoon diſcovered, and delivered up to his enemies; who conducted him to London, amidſt the inſults and reproaches of the people, and committed him to the Tower.

A parliament was ſummoned by the queen in the king's name, by which he was voted incapable of governing, and depoſed. Ed-

ward

ward was obliged to ſubmit to their deciſion, and his ſon was ſeated on the throne.

In a ſhort time the people began to regard the king with pity, and abhorred the conduct of the queen. The earl of Lancaſter, to whoſe care he was committed, treated him with tenderneſs, on which account he was removed; he was then delivered to three other keepers, lord Berkeley, Mautravers, and Gournay, who were to have him in their cuſtody a month at a time. Berkeley was gentle, but the two others treated him with every ſpecies of indignity, hoping to break his heart with ſorrow; as this method of killing him was ſlow, they took advantage of lord Berkeley's illneſs, and by the order of Mortimer, a Welch baron, the queen's favourite and counſellor, cruelly murdered him. Gournay was after-

ward beheaded, but Mautravers obtained pardon from Edward III.

Though Edward II. was very unfit to govern a fierce people in ſuch turbulent times, he would have appeared very amiable in a private ſtation, for he was of an inoffenſive nature, and was led on by exceſs of friendſhip to act as he did; he was very beautiful in his perſon.

This unhappy prince was murdered at Berkeley caſtle, the 21ſt of September, 1327.

During ſeveral years of this reign England was afflicted with a grievous famine. Perpetual rains and cold weather, not only deſtroyed the harveſt, but bred a mortality among the cattle, and raiſed every kind of food to an enormous price.

TABLE XIX.

Family of Edward II.

WIFE.

ISABELLA, Daughter to Philip the Fair, King of France.

SONS.

1. EDWARD, Prince of Wales, who succeeded his Father.
2. JOHN, Earl of Cornwall, who died young.

DAUGHTERS.

1. JANE, married to David Bruce, King of Scotland.
2. ELEANOR, married to Renegald, Count of Gueldres.

Number XXIII.

The heroic BURGESSES of CALAIS.

EDWARD III.

AFTER Edward II. was depoſed, the prince being a minor, a council of regency was appointed to govern for him, and the earl of Leiceſter was the guardian and protector of his perſon. Mortimer, the queen's favourite, though not of the council, uſurped the whole ſovereign authority to himſelf, and was more deſervedly hated than either Gaveſton or the Spenſers had been. He made a treaty with Bruce, king of Scotland, by which that king was rendered independant,

dant, and his ſon was to marry the princeſs Jane, ſiſter to the king of England. He contrived to have the earl of Kent, the king's uncle, beheaded, and Leiceſter, the protector, thrown into priſon, and was guilty of numberleſs bad actions beſide.

When Edward was eighteen years old, he conſulted with ſome of his faithful nobles how to get rid of Mortimer; in conſequence of which a confederacy was formed againſt the uſurper, and he was ſoon after ſeized in Nottingham caſtle, where he and the queen took up their reſidence, and was condemned to be hanged, as were alſo ſome of his adherents. The queen was confined to her houſe at Riſings, and her income reduced to 4000*l.* a year. The king went ſometimes to viſit her, but ſhe never recovered her credit and power.

Edward now proceeded with great induſtry and judgment in ſettling the affairs of his kingdom, and having done ſo, longed to diſplay his valour; this he had ſoon an opportunity of doing in a war, which was carried on with great vigour by the Scots and Engliſh; the latter gained a complete victory with the loſs of only one knight, one eſquire, and thirteen private men. That of the Scotch amounted to 30,000, and all the chief nobility were either killed or taken priſoners, and the ſovereignty of England was again acknowledged.

Edward next made a claim to the crown of France, but upon very weak grounds; however, he engaged ſome powerful allies, openly aſſumed the title of king of France, and made an attempt to dethrone Philip de Valois, who was at that time the French monarch.

Edward in different years invaded France; in

in 1340, he obtained a great naval victory, 230 French ſhips were taken, 30,000 Frenchmen killed, and two of their Admirals. The loſs of the Engliſh was very inconſiderable.

In the year 1346 a famous battle was fought near Crecy, in which the prince of Wales, as well as the king, diſplayed great valour; the king of France, whoſe army conſiſted of 120,000 men, narrowly eſcaped being killed, and his whole army which was very great, took to flight; on this occaſion 1200 French knights, 1400 gentlemen, 4000 men at arms, and about 30,000 of inferior rank, loſt their lives. The kings of Bohemia and Majorca were alſo ſlain. The creſt of the king of Bohemia was three oſtrich feathers, and his motto theſe German words, *Ich dien, I ſerve*, which the prince of Wales adopted in memorial of this great

victory, and his ſucceſſors have borne them ever ſince.

A few days after this Edward laid ſiege to Calais, which the governor and citizens bravely defended: during this ſiege the Scotch invaded England, but queen Philippa raiſed an army, which ſhe put under the command of Lord Piercy, and rode herſelf through the ranks, exhorting every man to do his duty. The Scotch army, though greatly ſuperior in numbers, was defeated; 15, or 20,000 killed, and David Bruce, their king, taken priſoner, and many noblemen. Philippa then went over to the Engliſh camp, which was before Calais, where ſhe was received with triumph.

The town of Calais held out for near twelve months; at laſt the brave governor, who was called John of Vienne, ſaw an abſolute neceſſity of ſurrendering the fortreſs, for

for the garriſon and inhabitants were reduced to the extremity of famine. He appeared on the walls, and expreſſed his readineſs to deliver it up to the king of England, upon condition that he would grant the inhabitants their lives and liberties. This was at firſt refuſed; but at laſt Edward only inſiſted, that ſix of the moſt conſiderable citizens ſhould be ſent to him with the keys, bare-footed and bare-headed, with ropes about their necks.

Six heroic burgeſſes, willing to ſacrifice their lives for their fellow citizens, appeared before Edward in the manner required, and were ordered to be led to execution; but queen Philippa threw herſelf on her knees before the king, and with tears in her eyes, begged their lives. On this occaſion ſhe appeared more truly great, than when at the head of a victorious army.

The king took poſſeſſion of Calais, and ſhortly after a truce was made between him and the French; during which, Philip de Valois, king of France, died, and was ſucceeded by his ſon John, a prince diſtinguiſhed for many virtues, and by no mean deficient in perſonal courage, but an unſkilful warrior.

Number XXIV.

EDWARD the BLACK PRINCE waiting on his ROYAL CAPTIVE, the KING of FRANCE.

IN the year 1349, Edward inſtituted the order of the garter. It originally conſiſted of twenty-five perſons, beſides the ſovereign, and has never been increaſed. The motto,

Honi

Honi ſoit qui mal y penſe, is ſaid to have ariſen from the counteſs of Saliſbury's dropping her garter, which the king picked up, and ſaid the above words to ſome of his courtiers, whom he obſerved to ſmile.

About this time a deſtructive peſtilence broke out in Europe, and reached England; this prolonged the truce, but at length the war was renewed, nothing deciſive was done that year; but the next, both the king and prince went over with a number of forces, and committed great devaſtations, and the king of France was greatly embarraſſed.

In 1356, the armies of the king of France and the prince of Wales met near Poictiers, a memorable battle was fought, in which the Engliſh were victorious. and the king of France was taken priſoner, with his ſon, a valiant youth of fourteen.

The

The young victorious prince, who was then twenty-ſeven years old, came forth to meet the captive king, with all the marks of regard and ſympathy endeavoured to comfort him under his misfortunes, and gave due praiſe to his valour. He ordered a repaſt to be prepared in his tent, and waited on his royal priſoner at table as one of his retinue. The French priſoners, overcome by this generoſity, burſt into tears.

A two years truce was made with France, and the king was carried over to England, where the king of Scots had been eleven years a priſoner. Edward ſoon after reſtored the latter to his liberty, on his paying a large ſum for his ranſom; and before the end of the truce, John ſigned terms of peace, which had they taken effect, muſt have totally ruined his kingdom; but the dauphin, his eldeſt ſon, who governed in his abſence, and the

ſtates

ſtates of France rejected them, on which Edward prepared for a new invaſion, and war was carried on till the ſpring of the year 1360, when peace was made, and the king of France ſet at liberty, on condition of his paying, at different times about 1,500,000*l.* of our money, as his ranſom. Some provinces were aſſigned to him, and others to the Engliſh monarch, &c.

The king of France honourably fulfilled all the conditions required of him, and when he died was ſucceeded by his ſon Charles, a prince of great ability and judgment.

In the year 1368, there was a diſagreement between the prince of Wales and the inhabitants of ſome of the French provinces, of which the king of France took advantage, and ſhortly after the prince, who was in a decline, was obliged to throw up the command and return to England. The king

of

of England in his old age loſt much of his popularity among his ſubjects; the duke of Lancaſter, his ſecond ſon, to whom he in a great meaſure reſigned the government, was greatly diſliked, and in a ſhort time the prince of Wales died, to the great grief of the nation, for he was univerſally eſteemed.

The king ſurvived this melancholy event about a year, and died on the 21ſt of January, 1377. in the ſixty-fifth year of his age, and fifty-firſt of his reign, at Sheen, now called Richmond, and when he was no more, the people became ſenſible of the irreparable loſs they had ſuſtained.

Edward was not only a great warrior, but a good monarch; his foreign wars were not founded in juſtice, nor did they procure him any ſolid advantages; but he ruled at home with great prudence and vigour, his behaviour

viour was affable, obliging, and generous, and his perſon very majeſtic.

Windſor caſtle was built by this prince.

The firſt toll for repairing highways was impoſed in this reign. It was for repairing the road between Temple-bar and St. Giles's.

TABLE

TABLE XX.

Family of Edward III.

WIFE.

PHILIPPA, Daughter of the Count of Holland and Hainault.

SONS.

1. EDWARD, called the Black Prince, from the colour of his Armour; he died before his Father.
2. LIONEL, Duke of Clarence. He died in Italy before his Father.
3. JOHN of GAUNT, Duke of Lancaſter.
4. EDMUND, Duke of York.
5. THOMAS, Duke of Glouceſter.

DAUGHTERS.

1. ISABELLA, married to the Earl of Bedford.
2. JOAN, married to the King of Caſtile.
3. MARY, married to the Duke of Brittany.
4. MARGARET, married to the Earl of Pembroke.

GRANDSON.

RICHARD, the Son of Edward the Black Prince, who ſucceeded to the Throne.

Number XXV.

The KING offering himſelf as Leader to the Populace.

RICHARD II.

HE was the ſon of Edward the Black Prince, and only eleven years of age when he came to the throne. No regency was expreſsly appointed; but the king's three uncles, the dukes of Lancaſter, York, and Glouceſter, ſecretly governed in the king's name.

Edward left his grandſon involved in many dangerous wars, that with France was very expenſive, and led the parliament to lay

lay a new tax of three groats a year upon every perſon above fifteen years of age, this produced a mutiny of a very uncommon nature; one John Ball, a ſeditious preacher, inflamed the minds of the common people, and in a ſhort time there was an inſurrection, headed by men who aſſumed the names of Wat Tyler, Jack Straw, Hob Carter, and Tom Miller, and the moſt outragious violence was committed on ſuch of the nobility and gentry as were ſo unhappy as to fall into their hands. This mutinous populace amounted to 100,000 men, they broke into the city of London, burnt the duke of Lancaſter's palace at the Savoy, cut off the heads of many gentlemen, pillaged the warehouſes of rich merchants, and threatened all the lawyers. They broke into the Tower, and murdered Simon Sudbury, who was archbiſhop of Canterbury and Chancellor

lor, Sir Robert Hales, the treaſurer, and other perſons of diſtinction. The king, very weakly guarded, met Wat Tyler and his rioters in Smithfield. Walworth, who was then Mayor of London, ſhocked with the inſolence of Tyler, drew his ſword, and ſtruck him to the ground, where he was ſoon diſpatched. Obſerving the mob preparing to revenge his death, the king boldly advanced, and with an affable and intrepid countenance cried out, "What is the matter my good people? Are ye angry that you have loſt your leader? I am your king, I will be your leader," on which they implicitly followed him; and ſoon after all the rebels ſubmitted.

RICHARD's ſubſequent conduct did not agree with this ſpecimen of prudence and preſence of mind, for his want of ſolid judgment appeared in every enterprize he undertook. He

He gave great offence to the nobility by his partiality to Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, who governed him as he pleaſed. Mowbray, earl of Nottingham, Fitz Allen, earl of Arundel, Piercy, earl of Northumberland, Mortacute, earl of Saliſbury, Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, were all cloſely connected together, and, with the king's uncles, and ſtill more by their hatred of the favourite.

Michael de la Pole, the Chancellor, lately created earl of Suffolk, was impeached, upon a very frivolous charge, and deprived of his office. Immediately after this Glouceſter and his aſſociates attacked the king, and contrived to get the ſovereign power into the hands of fourteen commiſſioners, who proceeded to the exerciſe of their authority, though Richard proteſted againſt it.

The

The kingdom was now divided into parties, which produced great commotions; the king's miniſters were either executed, or expelled, for actions which they were bound by their allegiance to perform. Theſe violent meaſures were followed by others, till the king was reduced to a ſtate of ſlavery; but in leſs than a twelvemonth he recovered his royal power. He exerciſed with moderation the authority he had regained, and ſeemed to be entitely reconciled to his uncles, nor did he recal his favourite, whom he had made duke of Ireland.

For eight years nothing material happened in the kingdom; but at the end of that time the earl of Lancaſter returned from Spain, and Richard paid great court to him.

The wars which Richard inherited with the crown, ſtill continued, but were very weakly carried on. At laſt the French and

Engliſh

Engliſh courts began to treat about peace, and made a truce for 20 years; and Richard, who was now a widower, engaged to eſpouſe Iſabella, daughter of Charles, who was only ſeven years old. Richard's conduct rendered him very contemptible to his people; for he was indolent, profuſe, addicted to low pleaſure, and ſpent his whole time in feaſting and diverſions.

The duke of Glouceſter took advantage of theſe ſentiments of the people; he formed cabals againſt the king, and ſpoke openly againſt the French truce and alliance. Richard, by advice of the French court, and urged by his own reſentment, ordered Glouceſter to be arreſted, and carried over to Calais, and the earls of Warwick and Arundel were ſeized at the ſame time. Their proceedings were countenanced by the dukes of Lancaſter and York, and their eldeſt ſons, the earls of Derby and Rutland. The

The archbiſhop of Canterbury was baniſhed, the earl of Arundel condemned and executed, Warwick baniſhed for life to the Iſle of Man. A warrant was ſent to bring the duke of Glouceſter over for his trial, but the governor of Calais returned for anſwer, that he died ſuddenly of an apoplexy. It appeared afterward, that he was ſuffocated with pillows by his keepers.

Number XXVI.

The KING forbidding the COMBAT between the DUKES of HEREFORD and NORFOLK.

A QUARREL ſoon after took place between the duke of Hereford, formerly earl of Derby, and the duke of Norfolk, and

they met, according to the practice of thoſe times, to decide it by ſingle combat, a duel fought publicly on horſeback. The place appointed for the combat was Coventry, and the whole nation was divided into parties: on the day fixed the combatants met in the field, and vaſt numbers of ſpectators were aſſembled, but the king would not ſuffer them to fight; he baniſhed Norfolk for life, and Hereford for ſix years.

Soon after this the duke of Lancaſter died, his ſon deſired to be put in poſſeſſion of his eſtate and juriſdiction, but Richard ſeized the eſtate himſelf.

Henry, the new duke of Lancaſter, had gained great renown for his piety and valour, and was connected with the principal nobility; the people, diſguſted with the king, turned their eyes towards him, as the only one who could retrieve the honour of the

the nation. Richard imprudently embarked for Ireland, and left his kingdom expoſed to an ambitious enemy. Henry returned, and brought with him about ſixty perſons, among whom were the archbiſhop of Canterbury and the young earl of Arundel; they were ſoon joined by the earls of Northumberland and Weſtmoreland, and in a ſhort time Henry's army amounted to 60,000 combatants; ſoon after this, the earl of Northumberland, by falſe oaths, made himſelf maſter of the king's perſon, and the unhappy monarch was conducted to London by the duke of Lancaſter, who was received with the acclamations of the populace. Soon after this Richard was obliged to reſign his crown, and Henry, with the unanimous votes of lords and commons, was placed on the throne, nobody could tell how or wherefore.

The dethroned monarch was impriſoned

in Pomfret caſtle, where he was ſoon after murdered, ſome ſay Sir Piers Exon, and others of his guards, diſpatched him with their halberts; but it is moſt probable that he was ſtarved to death, as his body was expoſed in public, and no marks of violence appeared upon it. It is ſaid he lived a fortnight after all kind of ſuſtenance was denied him. He died in 1399, in the thirty-fourth year of his age, and twenty-third of his reign.

This king certainly was very unfit for government; he was violent in his temper, profuſe in his expenſes, fond of idle ſhow and magnificence, devoted to favourites, and addicted to pleaſure. He lived in a moſt magnificent manner. His houſehold conſiſted of 10,000 perſons; he had 300 in his kitchen, and all the other offices were furniſhed

furniſhed in proportion. Yet he was ſtarved to death!

In this reign the members of the Houſe of Commons firſt choſe a ſpeaker, his name was Peter de la Mare.

TABLE XXI.

Family of Richard II.

WIFE.

ANNE, Daughter of the Emperor of Germany.

He was betrothed to Iſabella of France, but died before he was married to her.

He left no Children.

TABLE XXII.

The Line of Lancaſter.

HENRY IV. - - - - - -	1399
HHNRY V. - - - - -	1413
HENRY VI. - - - - -	1422

Number XXVII.

The BATTLE of SHREWSBURY, with the Death of HARRY PIERCY, ſurnamed HOTSPUR.

HENRY IV.

THE heir of the houſe of Mortimer, who had been declared in parliament heir to the crown, was the earl of March, a boy of ſeven years old. His friends were ſilent about his title, leſt their endeavours to raiſe him to the throne ſhould coſt him his life. Henry detained him and his younger brother at Windſor caſtle; but he had reaſon to fear this young nobleman's intereſt would ſtrengthen as he grew to man's eſtate. Henry ſoon found himſelf in a very dangerous ſituation. The peers quarrelled concerning his acceſſion

acceſſion, and a conſpiracy was formed to ſeize the king's perſon; but it was diſcovered by the earl of Rutland, and the king ſurprized them with an army of 20,000 men, and ſeveral noblemen were ſeized and put to death.

Soon after this there was an inſurrection in Wales, in conſequence of a quarrel between Owen Glendowr and Renegald, Lord Grey, the former was attached to the late king Richard, the latter was in the intereſt of Henry, who ſent him aſſiſtance. Glendowr took the young earl of March and Sir Edward Mortimer, his uncle, priſoners. Henry, who hated all the family of March, refuſed to the earl of Northumberland permiſſion to treat for their ranſom.

The Scots alſo made incurſions into England, and in one of them Archibald, earl of Douglas, was taken priſoner, and with

him many other noblemen and gentlemen. When Henry heard of this victory, he ſent orders to the earl of Northumberland not to ranſom them, which that nobleman regarded as his right to do, and took great offence at the king's meſſage. The impatient ſpirit of his ſon, Harry Piercy, ſurnamed Hotſpur, and the factious diſpoſition of the earl of Worceſter, Northumberland's younger brother, inflamed his diſcontent, and provoked him to enter into a correſpondence with Glendowr, and to give liberty to the earl of Douglas; he alſo called up all his partizans to arms, and the ſame men, whom but a few years before he had conducted againſt Richard, now followed him againſt Henry. A battle was fought near Shrewſbury; Henry expoſed his perſon in the thickeſt of the fight, his ſon, the Prince of Wales, fought valiantly, Piercy and Douglas ſupported

ported the fame they had before acquired, but Piercy was unfortunately killed by an unknown hand, which decided the victory, and the royaliſts prevailed. Near 2,300 gentlemen and noblemen are ſaid to have fallen that day, and 6000 private men. The earls of Worceſter and Douglas were taken priſoners, the former was beheaded, the latter treated with the courteſy his valour deſerved; the earl of Northumberland ſubmitted, and received the king's pardon, Sir Richard Vernon was executed.

The earl of Northumberland, the archbiſhop of York, and ſeveral other noblemen, though they remained quiet for a time, harboured ſecret hatred againſt the king, and entered into a conſpiracy, reſolving to ſeek revenge for the injuries he had done their families; but their enterpriſe failed, the archbiſhop and the earl of Nottingham were be-

trayed into his hands, and were both condemned and executed: the earl of Northumberland fled into Scotland with Lord Bardolph. The king reduced all their caſtles and fortreſſes, and theſe two noblemen ſoon after fell in battle, and Owen Glendowr died. Henry was now freed from all his domeſtic enemies.

About the ſame time prince James, of Scotland, who was nine years of age, was taken by the Engliſh, as he was going in a veſſel to France, for ſecurity againſt his uncle, who wanted to deſtroy him. Henry refuſed to reſtore the young prince to his liberty, but gave him a good education.

The war with France was in a manner ſuſpended during the reign of this king, who was ſo much employed in defending the crown which he had gained by ſuch unwarrantable means, that he had little leiſure to perform

perform any action that might redound to the honour of the nation; but in the latter part of his reign, he endeavoured, by his prudent, moderate conduct, to regain the reputation he had loſt in the beginning of it by his ſeverities.

His ſon Henry, prince of Wales, gave him great uneaſineſs; he ſeemed to forget that he was the ſon of a king, and heir apparent to a great kingdom.

Henry declined for ſome months before his death; he was ſubject to fits, which for the time deprived him of his ſenſes. He expired at Weſtminſter in 1413, in the forty-ſixth year of his age, and thirteenth of his reign.

Henry was firſt led into rebellion againſt his ſovereign by giving way to a ſpirit of revenge, which was ſeconded by ambition, and theſe carried him to greater lengths than he

he intended to go. The greatneſs he acquired was not enviable, for it is ſaid, that he was continually haunted with remorſe and apprehenſion. He was handſome in his perſon, and poſſeſſed many qualities which fitted him for his high ſtation, and his reign was, upon the whole, beneficial to the Engliſh nation.

TABLE XXIII.

Family of Henry IV.

WIVES.

1. MARY DE BOHUN, Daughter and Co-heireſs of the Earl of Hereford.
2. JANE, Daughter of the King of Navarre, Widow of the Duke of Brittany.

SONS.

1. HENRY, Prince of Wales, who ſucceeded him.
2. THOMAS, Duke of Clarence.
3. JOHN, Duke of Bedford, afterward Regent of France.
4. HUMPHREY, Duke of Glouceſter, afterward Regent of England.

DAUGHTERS.

1. BLANCHE, married to the Duke of Bavaria.
2. PHILIPPA, married to the King of Denmark.

Number XXVIII.

KING HENRY V. viewing the Field of Battle, after the Defeat of the FRENCH at AGINCOURT.

HENRY V.

IN the early part of his life, this prince gave himſelf up to exceſſes, which were very unbecoming his rank and ſtation. It is ſaid that when heated with liquor, he ſcrupled not to join with his riotous companions in robbing paſſengers on the highway for his diverſion. This diſſolute behaviour gave his father great uneaſineſs; but at times the prince diſcovered ſuch ſtrong marks

marks of courage and generoſity, as gave the nation great hopes of his amendment.

One inſtance in particular encouraged theſe agreeable views. One of his companions was indicted before Sir William Gaſcoigne, chief juſtice of the king's bench, for ſome diſorders; the prince appeared at the bar, in order to give countenance to the priſoner, and finding that his preſence had not over-awed the chief juſtice, he proceeded to inſult, and ſtruck him on his tribunal. The judge, mindful of the character he bore, ordered the prince to be carried to priſon; he peaceably ſubmitted to the ſentence, and acknowledged his error.

The memory of this incident, and many others of a like nature, increaſed the joy which the death of ſo unpopular a prince as the late king occaſioned, and the firſt ſteps which the new monarch took juſtified all

all the hopes entertained in his favour. He called together his former friends and companions, informed them of his intended reformation, exhorted them to follow his example, forbade them his preſence, but diſmiſſed them with liberal gifts.

He received into favour the wiſe miniſters of his father, praiſed the chief juſtice, and exhorted him to perſevere in the ſame juſt adminiſtration of the laws.

Henry was not only anxious to repair his paſt errors, but alſo to make ſome amends for thoſe iniquities which his father had committed. He expreſſed the deepeſt ſorrow for the fate of Richard, performed his funeral obſequies with pomp and ſolemnity, and cheriſhed all thoſe who had been loyal to that unhappy prince. He alſo received into favour the earl of March, who remained ever after faithfully attached to him, and

gave

gave no disturbance to his government. The family of Piercy was restored to its fortune and honours, and the king seemed ambitious to bury all party distinctions in oblivion. All men were unanimious in their loyalty to him, and none thought of disputing his title to the crown.

It was the dying injunction of the late king to his son, not to let the English remain long in peace, and the natural disposition of Henry inclined him to follow this advice; but while he was meditating conquests on his neighbours, he found himself in danger from a conspiracy at home; however, it was detected, and the conspirators were led to execution.

On the 14th of August, 1415, the king put to sea, and soon after landed on the coast of France, and besieged Harfleure with an army of 6,000 men at arms, and 24,000 foot,

foot, chiefly archers: after a ſhort time the place yielded to him, and he expelled the French inhabitants, in order to people it with Engliſh. The fatigues of the ſiege and the extraordinary heat of the weather had ſo waſted the Engliſh army, that Henry could think of no farther enterprize, and was preparing to return to England, and offered to give up Harfleure for a ſafe paſſage to Calais, but was refuſed. The French had collected together an army of 14,000 men at arms, and 40,000 foot. Henry was determined to make his way by valour; but when he drew near Calais, he was ſurprized at ſeeing the whole French army drawn up on the plains of Agincourt. Nothing in appearance could be more unequal than the battle on which his ſafety and all his fortune depended. His army was reduced to little more than half the number which had diſ-

embarked

embarked at Harfleure. The enemy was four times more numerous, and headed by the dauphin, and all the princes of the blood: notwithſtanding this inequality, the Engliſh gained a complete victory, and the field was covered with the numbers of thoſe who were killed and wounded.

No battle was ever more fatal to France, by the number of princes and nobility ſlain and taken priſoners. The killed are ſaid to have amounted to 10,000 men, and Henry was maſter of 14,000 priſoners. All the Engliſh that were ſlain did not exceed forty, among whom was the duke of York, who died fighting by the king's ſide.

Number XXIX.

The KING delivering his laſt WILL to the DUKE of BEDFORD, &c.

Reign of HENRY V. continued.

AFTER the battle of Agincourt, Henry continued his march, carried his priſoners from thence to England, and made a truce with the enemy. No hoſtilities took place for two years between France and England; but during this time the fury of civil war raged in France, and the king was made priſoner by the queen and the duke of Burgundy. In the midſt of theſe commotions, Henry again invaded that kingdom with an army of 25,000 men, and gained ſeveral places, while he was treating for peace with the

the queen and the duke of Burgundy, the latter was murdered, and his friends taken priſoners. The dauphin, who was very young, was ſuſpected of being concerned in this conſpiracy, and the queen, who entertained the moſt unnatural hatred of her own ſon, exclaimed againſt him. A ſtrong party was formed to deprive the prince of the ſucceſſion, and they entered into a league with Henry, that he ſhould marry the princeſs Catharine; that Charles, during his life time, ſhould be called king of France; that Henry ſhould be declared and acknowledged heir of the monarchy, and be entruſted with the preſent adminiſtration of the government; that France and England ſhould be forever united under one monarchy, but ſhould ſtill retain their ſeveral privileges, &c. This was called the treaty of Troye, being concluded at a town of that name.

Had

Had it taken effect, it would have been productive of very bad conſequences to both kingdoms.

In a few days after Henry eſpouſed the princeſs Catharine, and immediately turned his arms againſt the adherents of the dauphin, who took upon him the ſtile and title of Regent; but he was chaſed from place to place. In the midſt of Henry's ſucceſs a ſon was born to him at Paris, whoſe birth was celebrated with the moſt pompous rejoicings, both in that city and in London.

But the glory of Henry, when it had nearly reached the ſummit, was ſtopped ſhort by the hand of death. He was ſeized with a fatal diſtemper, and finding his end approaching, he ſent for his brother, the duke of Bedford, the earl of Warwick, and a few other noblemen, and, with great tranquility, delivered to them his laſt will, entreated them

them to continue their attachment to his infant ſon, expreſſed his indifference at the approach of death, and only regretted that he muſt leave his work unfiniſhed, but hoped they would complete the conqueſt of France. He left the regency of that kingdom to his eldeſt brother, the duke of Bedford, that of England to his youngeſt, the duke of Glouceſter, and the care of his ſon's perſon to the earl of Warwick.

Having given full directions reſpecting his kingdoms, the king applied himſelf to his devotions, and expired on the thirty-firſt of Auguſt, 1422, in the thirty-fourth year of his age, and tenth of his reign.

This prince poſſeſſed many eminent virtues, but his ambition carried him beyond due bounds. His face was beautiful, and his figure and addreſs very agreeable, and he excelled in all manly exerciſes.

In leſs than two months after Henry's death, Charles VI. of France, his father-in-law, died, and the dauphin was crowned by the name of Charles VII.

TABLE XXIV.

Family of Henry V.

WIFE.

CATHARINE of *France*, married afterward to Sir Owen Tudor, a Welch Gentleman, said to be descended from the Princes of that Country.

SON.

HENRY, Prince of Wales, who was not a Year old when his Father died.

Catharine had two Sons after she was married to Owen Tudor.

Number XXX.

KING HENRY the VIth crowned at PARIS, receiving Homage as KING of FRANCE.

HENRY VI.

THE parliament of England, inſtead of eſtabliſhing the regency of the duke of Glouceſter, appointed the duke of Bedford protector and guardian of the infant king, and his perſon and education were committed to Henry Beaufort, biſhop of Winchester. The duke of Bedford proceeded with great prudence, in reſpect to the affairs of France; but the young king of that nation was of a very amiable character, and likely

likely to be eſtabliſhed upon the throne. This the duke employed every mean to prevent, and the king of France was at one time reduced to ſuch a deſperate ſtate, that it was difficult for him to ſupply his table with the plaineſt neceſſaries, and every day brought him an account of ſome loſs or misfortune; however, he fortunately gained the alliance of the duke of Burgundy.

The duke of Bedford reſolved to attempt the final conqueſt of France, by beſieging Orleans, and committed the conduct of this great enterprize to the earl of Saliſbury. Juſt as it was ſuppoſed the place muſt ſurrender for want of proviſions, it was unexpectly relieved in a very ſtrange manner.

A country girl, twenty-ſeven years of age, called Joan D'Arc, who was ſervant at an inn, and had been accuſtomed to ride and look after horſes, fancied herſelf inſpired to

deliver her country. The French received her as a meſſenger from heaven, the Engliſh troops were diſmayed, and in a ſhort time Suffolk was obliged to raiſe the ſiege, and in his retreat was taken priſoner, and the remainder of the Engliſh army, commanded by Faſtolffe, Scales, and Talbot, was alſo obliged to retreat. Charles was ſoon after crowned at Reims; the maid of Orleans ſtood by his ſide in complete armour, and the people ſhouted with the ſincereſt joy.

The duke of Bedford, in the mean time, did every thing in his power to preſerve ſome footing in France, and ſoon after the coronation of Charles, he had the young king of England brought over to Paris, where he was crowned and anointed, and received homage from all the priſoners who remained in the poſſeſſion of the Engliſh; the number of which was greatly diminiſhed.

Henry

Henry the VIth was nearly nine years old when he was crowned.

Soon after the defeat of the Engliſh, the maid of Orleans deſired to retire to her former ſtation; but the French general being unwilling to part with the advantage of her preſence, ſhe continued with them, but was unfortunately taken priſoner, loaded with irons, and after a variety of ſufferings, burnt alive as a witch.

After this the Engliſh loſt ground very much, and in the year 1435, the duke of Bedford died. The conteſt for the kingdom of France was carried on for a number of years; but very little was done on either ſide. The duke of Glouceſter and the biſhop of Wincheſter differed very often about public affairs, and headed two factions; by advice of the latter a truce for twenty-two months was concluded with France.

As Henry advanced in years, it appeared that the extreme meekneſs of his temper, and weakneſs of his underſtanding, fitted him to be perpetually governed by thoſe who ſurrounded him; as he had attained his twenty-third year they thought it proper he ſhould have a queen, and he was married to Margaret of Anjou, daughter of Regnier. titular king of Naples, Sicily, and Jeruſalem. This princeſs had great accompliſhments, but was of a maſculine temper; and ſhe had a great partiality for the duke of Suffolk, who went to fetch her over to England, and the dukes of Sommerſet and Buckingham joined with them in a reſolution to effect the ruin of the duke of Glouceſter.

They began with his ducheſs, whom they obliged to do public pennance, and condemned to perpetual impriſonment, on pretence that ſhe had practiſed magical arts on the

the King. Soon after this they accuſed the good duke of treaſon, and threw him into priſon, where he was found dead in his bed, and it was ſuſpected that he was murdered at the inſtigation of the cardinal of Wincheſter and the duke of Suffolk.

The cardinal of Wincheſter died ſix weeks after, very miſerably, for his laſt moments were imbittered by remorſe for his wicked life.

In the mean while Charles of France expelled the Engliſh from all their poſſeſſions in that kingdom, excepting Calais.

Number XXXI.

QUEEN MARGARET causing the Head of the DUKE of YORK to be fixed on the Gates of the City of YORK.

Reign of HENRY VI. *continued.*

THE murder of the good duke Humphrey gave general diſcontent. The duke of Suffolk, as prime miniſter, was univerſally hated; at length he was impeached of high treaſon, and baniſhed for five years, and fearing that the queen would recal him, his enemies employed a captain of a veſſel to intercept him in his paſſage to France, who ſeized him near Dover, and cauſed his head to be ſtruck off, and his body thrown into the

the ſea. The duke of Sommerſet was appointed to ſucceed him; but he was equally diſliked.

Theſe diſcontents produced great commotions in different parts of England; the moſt remarkable inſurrection was that headed by one John Cade, who took the name of Mortimer, and collected to his ſtandard 20,000 of the common people in the county of Kent. Sir Humphrey Stafford, who was ſent againſt him was defeated and ſlain; but ſoon after Cade himſelf was killed by one Iden, a gentleman of Suſſex. Cade was ſuppoſed to have been ſet on by the duke of York; and two ſtrong parties were formed in the kingdom, one for the houſe of Lancaſter, the other for the duke of York.

This prince certainly had a better title to the crown than Henry, as he deſcended from the ſecond ſon of Henry III. and Henry

from the third ſon of that monarch. Richard, duke of York was a man of valour and abilities, and poſſeſſed of a very large fortune; his alliances were powerful, for he married the daughter of Ralph Neville, earl of Warwick; the earl of Saliſbury alſo eſpouſed his cauſe: both theſe earls were highly eſteemed for their perſonal merit, particularly the earl of Warwick. The duke of York had many powerful friends beſides, who reſolved to ſupport his title to the crown.

Dreadful conteſts now took place, a battle was fought near St. Albans, in which the Yorkiſts, without much loſs on their ſide, killed about 5000 of their enemies, among whom were the dukes of Suffolk, and Northumberland, the earls of Stafford and Clifford, and many other perſons of diſtinction. The king himſelf fell into the hands of the duke of York, who obliged him to commit

mit the authority of the crown into his hands, which Henry thought no hardſhip. This was the firſt blood ſpilt in that fatal quarrel, which was not finiſhed in leſs than thirty years, which was ſignalized by twelve pitched battles, attended with extraordinary cruelty: it is computed to have coſt the lives of eighty princes of the blood, and almoſt entirely to have annihilated the antient nobilityof England.

Margaret's ſpirit could not ſubmit to ſee her huſband dethroned in this manner, and ſhe ſoon got him reinſtated by the parliament; but in a ſhort time he was again taken priſoner, and the earl of Warwick and other leaders rreated him with great reſpect. The duke of York's title was debated, and it was determined, that Henry ſhould poſſeſs the title and dignity during his life; that the adminiſtration ſhould remain with Richard, and

that

that he ſhould be declared rightful heir to the crown.

Margaret finding that they had a deſign to baniſh her, fled with her ſon, and by the favour of the northern barons, collected an army of 20,000 men. The duke of York met and engaged this army with 5000 only, and unfortunately loſt his life. Queen Margaret ordered his head to be cut off, and fixed on the gates of York, with a paper crown, in deriſion of his deſign. His ſon, the earl of Rutland, an amiable youth of ſeventeen, was killed in cold blood by lord Clifford; the earl of Saliſbury was beheaded, and ſeveral others, and near 3000 Yorkiſts killed, the duke periſhed in the fiftieth year of his age. The king once more fell into the hands of his own party.

Edward, the eldeſt ſon of the late duke of York laid claim to the crown, and gained a great

a great victory. Henry was taken prisoner and committed to the Tower: Margaret escaped into Flanders.

Edward now seemed to be fixed upon the throne; but he imprudently gave offence to Warwick, by marrying Elizabeth Woodville, while the earl was gone to negotiate a marriage for him with the lady Bonor, of Savoy. Warwick, in revenge, turned his arms and interest against Edward, and obliged him to fly the kingdom, and Henry was released from prison, and once more seated upon the throne.

But shortly after, Edward's party collected, he returned and was joyfully received, and Henry was again driven from his throne and committed to prison. A battle was fought near St. Alban's, in which Warwick was killed.

Margaret

Margaret was greatly afflicted with the news of this event, but ſoon aſſembled her friends, and the duke of Sommerſet headed her army; but the duke of York prevailed, and the queen and prince were taken priſoners, the latter was cruelly ſtabbed by the dukes of Glouceſter and Clarence, and Henry was ſoon after murdered in his chamber by the duke of Glouceſter. Margaret alone was ſuffered to ſurvive.

Thus died Henry VI. a monarch, who while in his cradle, had been proclaimed king of France and England, and who began his life in the moſt ſplendid proſperity: he died March 3, 1461.

Queen Margaret was afterward ranſomed by the king of France. She paſſed the remainder of her days in a private ſtation.

TABLE

TABLE XXV.

Family of Henry VI.

WIFE.

MARGARET, Daughter of Regnier, titular King of Sicily, Naples, and Jeruſalem.

SON.

EDWARD, Prince of Wales, murdered.

TABLE XXVI.

Family of Richard, Duke of York.

WIFE.

ANNE, Daughter of Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

SONS.

1. EDWARD, afterward King of England.
2. GEORGE, Duke of Clarence, executed.
3. RICHARD, Duke of Glouceſter, uſurped the Crown.

DAUGHTERS.

1. ANNE.
2. MARGARET.

TABLE XXVII.

Line of York.

1. EDWARD IV. - - - - - 1461
2. EDWARD V. - - - - - 1483
3. RICHARD III. - - - - - 1483

Number XXXII.

The EXECUTION of the DUKE of CLARENCE.

EDWARD IV.

THIS prince was proclaimed king ſoon after the ſecond battle at St. Alban's; he was in his twentieth year when he firſt obtained the throne. The events related at the latter end of the laſt reign properly belong to this, as Henry VI. was depoſed ſome time before his death.

As ſoon as Edward got poſſeſſion of royal power, there was nothing but ſpilling of blood, either in the field or on the ſcaffold, and the hatred of the different parties to each

each other was implacable. All who favoured the houſe of Lancaſter wore the *red roſe*, as a mark of diſtinction, thoſe of York were known by the *white roſe*.

The king being firmly ſeated on the throne, gave himſelf up to a life of gaity and diſſipation; and among other bad actions, ſeduced from her huſband, a reſpectable citizen, Jane Shore, a woman of exquiſite beauty, but little prudence.

Edward engaged in a war with France, which ended in a treaty that did honour to neither of the parties.

The duke of Clarence had engaged with the earl of Warwick, when he joined with queen Margaret; but he afterward returned to his allegiance, and did his royal brother important ſervices, yet he never was able to regain the king's favour, and he was ſtill regarded at court as a dangerous and a fickle character.

character. The queen was his enemy, but he had a ſtill more inveterate and dangerous one in his brother, the duke of Glouceſter, a prince of a moſt wicked diſpoſition.

A pretence was ſoon found for accuſing the duke of Clarence of high treaſon, and the king, his brother, appeared perſonally againſt him as his accuſer, in conſequence of which he was found guilty by his peers, and ſentence was pronounced againſt him without any juſt grounds. The only favour which the king granted his brother after his condemnation, was the choice of his death, and by his own deſire, the duke was privately drowned in the Tower, in a butt of Malmſey wine. He left a ſon, who was afterward created earl of Warwick, and a daughter, afterward counteſs of Saliſbury, both of whom died violent deaths.

In

In the latter part of his reign, Edward was intent upon forming ſplendid alliances for his daughters, though they were yet in their infancy, none of which took place. He began to think again of a French war, when he was ſeized with an illneſs, of which he died in 1482, the forty-ſecond year of his age, and twenty-third of his reign.

This monarch was brave, active, and enterpriſing; but had a great deal of ſeverity and revenge in his temper, and was exceſſively addicted to pleaſure.

TABLE XXVIII.

Family of Edward IV.

WIFE.

ELIZABETH, Daughter of Sir Richard Woodville, and Widow of Lord Grey.

SONS.

1. EDWARD, Prince of Wales, thirteen Years old when his Father died.
2. RICHARD, Duke of York, nine Years old.

DAUGHTERS.

1. ELIZABETH, married to Henry VII.
2. CICELY.
3. ANNE.
4. CATHARINE.

Number XXXIII.

LORD HASTINGS accuſed at the COUNCIL BOARD by the DUKE of GLOUCESTER.

EDWARD V.

THERE had long been great jealouſies between the queen's relations, who had been aggrandized by Edward IV. and the ancient nobility. The earl of Rivers and the marquis of Dorſet were at the head of one party, the duke of Buckingham, a man of very noble birth, and lord Haſtings, the chamberlain, were the leaders of the other. With the latter were the lords Howard and Stanley, and all the other barons who had

no particular dependence on the queen, and the people in general bore great favour to theſe noblemen.

Edward, before his death, had endeavoured to compoſe theſe quarrels; but the jealouſies of all parties broke out afreſh, and each of them endeavoured to acquire the favour and friendſhip of the duke of Glouceſter: he had unbounded ambition, and no regard either to juſtice or humanity, and as he aſpired to the crown himſelf, he readily joined with that party who wiſhed to ruin the queen and her family.

The duke very ſoon managed to get the young king into his hands, under pretence of conducting him to London, and cauſed the earl of Rivers, the queen's brother, who before had the care of the young prince, to be arreſted, alſo Sir Richard Grey, one of the queen's ſons, and Sir Thomas Vaughan.

The

The young king, who had been educated by them, and was tenderly attached to them, expreſſed great diſpleaſure at theſe proceedings, and the queen fled to a nunnery for ſanctuary, carrying with her the duke of York, and the five princeſſes. Glouceſter, anxious to have the duke in his power, propoſed to take him by force, that he might be preſent at his brother's coronation; but the two archbiſhops objecting to this, it was agreed that they ſhould endeavour to perſuade the queen to compliance. Theſe good prelates having no ſuſpicion of the duke's bad deſign, prevailed on the queen to give a reluctant conſent; ſhe produced her ſon, and, ſtruck as it were, with a preſage of his future fate, ſhe burſt into tears, and tenderly embracing him, took a laſt adieu.

The duke of Glouceſter was choſen protector of the young king. He had by diſimu-

lation concealed his fierce and ſavage nature; but he ſoon fully diſplayed it. His firſt ſtep was to procure the deaths of the earl Rivers, and the reſt of the priſoners at Pomfret, and they were, with conſent of the council, beheaded.

He next, by great offers, gained a promiſe from the duke of Buckingham, to ſupport him in all his enterprizes, and then, by means of Cateſby, ſounded lord Haſtings; but finding that this nobleman was firm in his allegiance to Edward's children, he determined upon his ruin, and on the very day the noblemen were executed at Pomfret, he ſummoned a council in the Tower, to which lord Haſtings, without any ſuſpicion repaired. Glouceſter appeared to be remarkably gay and good-natured, but left the council chamber, as if called out upon buſineſs: he returned with an angry countenance, and demanded,

manded, what thoſe deſerved who had practiſed againſt his life? Haſtings replied they ſhould be treated as traitors. Theſe traitors, ſaid the protector, are my brother's wife, Jane Shore, and their aſſociates: See, ſaid he, what they have done by their witchcraft, and ſhewed his withered arm. The council well knew that he was born with this infirmity, and looked at each other, not knowing what to anſwer; but Haſtings ventured to vindicate Jane Shore. And do you reply to me, ſaid the protector, with your *ifs* and your *ands*, you are yourſelf the chief abettor, and I ſwear, by St. Paul, I will not dine before your head be brought me: on this he ſtruck his hand againſt the wainſcot, and armed men ruſhed in, who ſeized lord Haſtings, and inſtantly beheaded him on a piece of timber in the court of the Tower. Lord Stanley, the archbiſhop of York, the biſhop

of Ely, and other counſellors, were committed to the Tower. Jane Shore's goods were ſeized, ſhe was condemned to do pennance in a white ſheet at St. Paul's, before the whole people, and languiſhed out the latter part of her life in ſolitude and indigence.

Number XXXIV.

The ASSASINS approaching the Bed, in order to ſmother the young KING and the DUKE of YORK.

Reign of EDWARD V. continued.

AFTER the murder of Haſtings, Glouceſter no longer made a ſecret of his intention

tion to ſeize the crown, he pretended that the children of Edward were not the true offſpring of Edward, and in a ſhort time he was proclaimed king by Buckingham. Richard ſoon after appointed Sir James Tyrrel, conſtable of the Tower, who employed three aſſaſſins to murder the two princes, by whom they were ſmothered in bed, as they lay ſleeping by each other's ſide. Tyrrel, who ſtood without, while the inhuman deed was perpetrated, ordered their bodies to be buried at the foot of the ſtairs, very deep, under a heap of ſtones; and in the reign of Charles II. the bones of two perſons of the ſize of the princes, were found in that very ſpot, and were interred, by his order, under a marble monument.

Number XXXV.

The Body of RICHARD thrown acroſs a Horſe, and carried from the Field of Battle.

RICHARD III.

THE firſt acts of Richard's reign were to beſtow rewards upon thoſe who had aſſiſted him in uſurping the crown, and to gain the favour of thoſe whom he thought moſt able to ſupport him in it. The perſon who had the greateſt claim to his favour, was the duke of Buckingham, and Richard was very liberal to him; but it was impoſſible that friendſhip could ſubſiſt between perſons of ſuch corrupt minds, and it was not long

long before Richard gave offence to Buckingham.

The duke, who was related to the royal family of Richard II. on this, formed a conſpiracy againſt Richard's government. To endure ſuch a bloody uſurper as Richard, ſeemed to draw diſgrace upon the nation, and to be attended with danger to every one who was diſtinguiſhed by birth, merit, or ſervices. All parties were unanimous in deſiring to deſtroy him: by the advice of the biſhop of Ely, Buckingham caſt his eyes towards the young earl of Richmond, as the only perſon who could free the nation from the tyranny of Richard.

It was propoſed to the queen dowager, that Richmond ſhould marry her eldeſt daughter, princeſs Elizabeth, and ſo unite the two families of York and Lancaſter. To this the queen conſented, and ſecretly borrowed

a ſum of money in the city, which ſhe ſent over to the earl of Richmond, and required his oath, that he would celebrate his marriage with the princeſs as ſoon as he ſhould arrive in England. She adviſed him to bring as many foreign forces as he could, and promiſed to join him with her party on his firſt appearance.

This plan was ſecretly communicated to the principal perſons of every county in the kingdom, and all were eager for its ſucceſs. Richard having received intelligence, that the duke of Buckingham was forming ſome deſign againſt him, put himſelf in a poſture of defence, and ſummoned the duke to appear before him, promiſing to renew his ancient friendſhip; but Buckingham knew his treachery too well to truſt him, and replied only by taking up arms, which was a ſignal for a general inſurrection. Unfortunately

nately for him, his march was retarded by exceſſive rain, which cauſed the Severn, and other rivers to overflow. Finding himſelf deſerted by ſome of his followers, he put on a diſguiſe, and took ſhelter in the houſe of one Banniſter, an old ſervant; but he was detected in this retreat, and brought to the king at Saliſbury, where he was inſtantly executed. The other conſpirators on this, deſpaired of ſucceſs; ſome of them eſcaped beyond ſea, others fell into the tyrant's hands. The earl of Richmond landed with 5,000 men; but having juſt before met with a ſtorm, and finding his friends diſperſed, he returned back to Brittany.

The king, now every where triumphant, cauſed his only ſon Edward, a youth of twelve years old, to be created prince of Wales. He paid court to the queen dowager, and prevailed on her to leave the

ſanctuary, and put herſelf and daughters into his hands. He had before married Anne, ſecond daughter of the earl of Warwick, and widow of Edward, prince of Wales, whom he helped to murder; this lady died ſuddenly, and Richard was ſuſpected of having poiſoned her. He now propoſed to marry the princeſs Elizabeth, and the queen agreed that he ſhould do ſo, though he was uncle to the princeſs, and had murdered her two brothers and other relations; and ſhe even wrote to her ſon, the duke of Dorſet, deſiring him to withdraw from the earl of Richmond.

The crimes of Richard were ſo horrid and ſhocking to humanity, that every perſon of honour and probity was anxious to dethrone him, and prevent his marriage with princeſs Elizabeth. In a ſhort time, the earl of Richmond

mond arrived at Milford haven, in Wales, and every day gained new reinforcements.

Richard, who knew not where the enemy would land, had taken poſt at Nottingham, and propoſed to haſten, on the firſt alarm, to the place of danger. Scarcely any nobleman of diſtinction was ſincerely attached to his cauſe, but the duke of Norfolk, the reſt were only waiting for a favourable opportunity to deſert from him. He was particularly jealous of lord Stanley, and detained his eldeſt ſon, lord George, as a pledge of his fidelity, which obliged that nobleman to be very cautious in his proceedings.

The two rivals at length approached each other in Boſworth-field, near Leiceſter. Richmond, at the head of 6,000 men, the king with more than twice that number. Lord Stanley, with about 7,000, placed himſelf

ſelf near the two armies. Richard ſuſpected his intention, but did not think it politic to put his ſon to death. Soon after the attack began, Lord Stanley declared for Richmond; a deciſive battle was fought, Richard fighting with great courage to the laſt, was overpowered by numbers and ſlain, and his army entirely routed.

There fell in this battle about 5,000 of the vanquiſhed, among whom were the duke of Norfolk, and other perſons of diſtinction. The loſs of the victors was very inconſiderable. Sir William Cateſby was taken and ſoon after beheaded.

The body of Richard was found in the field of battle, covered with dead enemies, and all beſmeared with blood. It was thrown careleſsly acroſs a horſe, carried to Leiceſter, amidſt the ſhouts of inſulting ſpectators,

and

and buried in the Grey Friars church in that place.

This prince was of a ſmall ſtature, hump-backed, and of a moſt diſagreeable countenance; he was killed the 22d of Auguſt, 1485, in the ſecond year of his reign. What became of his ſon is not known.

TABLE

TABLE XXIX.

Line of Tudor.

HENRY VII. - - - - -	1485
HENRY VIII. - - - - -	1509
EDWARD VI. - - - - -	1547
MARY I. - - - - -	1553
ELIZABETH. - - - - -	1558

Number XXXVI.

The Marriage of HENRY VII. with ELIZABETH, Daughter of EDWARD IV.

HENRY VII.

AS ſoon as the battle was over, the cry of Long live Henry the Seventh! reſounded from every quarter, and Sir William Stanley brought a crown of ornament, which Richard uſed to wear in battle, and placed it on the head of the victor. Henry, without heſitation, accepted it.

This prince, who by the female line, deſcended from John of Gaunt, founded his claim as heir to the houſe of Lancaſter, and ever

ever bore a moſt inveterate antipathy to the houſe of York, and while he treated them as enemies often made them ſuch. He was crowned with great ſplendor and ceremony ſoon after his arrival in London, and in about half a year after he came to the throne, he married the princeſs Elizabeth; but his hatred to the houſe of York was ſo great, that ſhe could never gain his affection, though her behaviour was virtuous and amiable in a high degree. This marriage gave great joy to the nation, as it put an end to the dreadful conteſt which had continued for ſo many years, and cauſed ſo much bloodſhed. And the king iſſued a general pardon to all who would accept of it; notwithſtanding this, ſeveral rebellions were raiſed againſt him.

There lived at Oxford one Simon, a prieſt, who with a view to diſturb Henry's government,

ment, trained up Lambert Simnel, a baker's ſon, to perſonate the earl of Warwick, ſon of the duke of Clarence, who was drowned in a butt of Malmſey. This young nobleman was at that time confined in the Tower. This impoſtor firſt appeared in Ireland, where he was publicly proclaimed king, by the title of Edward the VIth. He afterward proceeded to England, and landed in Yorkſhire; but his party was ſoon ſubdued, and Simnel and his tutor Simon were taken. Simon was detained in priſon; but Simnel, being too contemptible for the king's notice, was ſet at liberty, and made a ſcullion in the royal kitchen. Warwick was brought out of priſon, led in proceſſion through the ſtreets of London, and expoſed at St. Paul's to the view of the people.

Henry then proceeded to take revenge on his enemies, and laid heavy fines on the delinquent.

linquents. After he had gratified his rigour he determined to content his people, by the coronation of his queen, who was accordingly crowned. He also restored the duke of Dorset to liberty; but seized the queen dowager, confiscated her estate, and kept her a perpetual prisoner in the nunnery of Bermondsey, where she remained some years, and ended her days in poverty, solitude, and confinement.

Number XXXVII.

PERKIN WARBECK sitting in the Stocks.

Reign of HENRY VII. *continued.*

SOMETIME after the affair of Simnel, the old duchess of Burgundy, who hated Henry

Henry, and had been a ſecret abettor of the former conſpiracy, engaged in a freſh enterprize. She firſt cauſed it to be reported, that the duke of York, ſecond ſon of Edward IV. was alive, and ſet up one Perkin Warbeck, a renegado Jew, to perſonate him. This young adventurer landed at Cork, and immediately aſſumed the name of Richard Plantagenet, and was received as ſuch by the people of Ireland. The king of France invited him to Paris, ſettled a handſome penſion upon him, and gave him a guard for his perſon. A number of Engliſh noblemen went over to him, to offer him their ſervices, and ſhare his fortunes as the ſuppoſed duke of York, the ducheſs of Burgundy ſoon after acknowledged him, and gave him the appellation of the *White roſe of England.*

The king employed many arts to diſcover

ver the impoſtor: at length the whole of the conſpiracy was laid open to him, with the pedigree, life, and converſation of the pretended duke of York; the latter was publiſhed for the ſatisfaction of the nation. Several noblemen, who had promiſed aid to Perkin were executed, among the reſt Lord Stanley.

As Perkin found the king's authority daily giving ground, he collected together a band of pirates, robbers, and neceſſitous perſons, to the number of 600, and went to Scotland, where he was ſecretly aſſiſted by the king of Scots; but on a truce being made between England and Scotland, Perkin was privately deſired to retire from that kingdom. When he landed in England, not having ſufficient force to meet the king in the field of battle, he took ſanctuary in a monaſtery; but was dragged from thence, taken

taken priſoner, and ſet in the ſtocks, both in Cheapſide and Weſtminſter, and was obliged to read his confeſſion aloud to the people. His life was ſpared at that time, but he eſcaped from confinement, and was afterward taken and hanged at Tyburn.

It happened about this time, that a Cordwainer's ſon had undertaken to perſonate the earl of Warwick; this incident ſerved as a pretence to the king, for trying the earl, who was condemned and executed. By this act of tyranny, Henry deſtroyed the laſt remaining male of the line of Plantagenet.

A marriage was concluded between Arthur prince of Wales, and the infanta Catharine of Arragon; the prince was ſixteen, the princeſs eighteen. The prince ſoon after died, and Henry obliged his ſecond ſon, afterward Henry VIII. to marry her. The prince

prince reſiſted this match as much as a youth of twelve years old could do; but the king could not bear to reſtore the infanta's dower, which was 200,000*l.*

The ſame year he married Margaret, his eldeſt daughter to James, king of Scotland. Amidſt theſe proſperous events, the king loſt his queen; ſhe was deſervedly the favourite of the people, and the general affection was increaſed by his harſh treatment of her.

The ſituation of the king's affairs being in every reſpect fortunate, and being free from apprehenſion, he gave way to his avarice, and oppreſſed his people ſhamefully, by which mean he amaſſed together an incredible ſum of ready money. He was thinking of a ſecond marriage for himſelf, when his declining health called upon him

to

to direct his thoughts to a future ſtate, which afforded him a very diſmal proſpect.

To allay his terrors he endeavoured, by diſtributing alms, and founding religious houſes, to make atonement for his crimes, and to purchaſe, with his ill-gotten wealth, reconciliation with his Maker. The near approach of death brought freſh horrors, and he then ordered, by a clauſe in his will, reſtitution to be made to all whom he had injured. He died at Richmond in 1509, after a reign of twenty-three years, eight months, and in the fifty-ninth of his age.

Hiſtorians differ much in reſpect to the character of this prince; by ſome his ſeverities are imputed entirely to the continual alarms he was under; and he is ſaid to have been of a very pacific diſpoſition, a great promoter of trade and commerce, and a

friend to liberty, and to have wrought a great change for the better in the manners of the people.

This king eſtabliſhed the yeomen of the guards.

In the beginning of this reign, a diſorder unknown before in England, called the ſweating ſickneſs, carried off a great number of people.

Henry expended 14,000*l.* in building one ſhip, called the *Great Harry*. Before this period, if the king wanted ſhips, he had no other expedient but hiring or preſſing them from merchants.

TABLE XXX.

Family of Henry VII.

WIFE.

ELIZABETH, Daughter of Edward IV.

SONS.

1. ARTHUR, Prince of Wales, eſpouſed to Catharine of Arragon, he died before his Father.
2. HENRY. After his Brother's Death created Prince of Wales, and eſpouſed at twelve Years of Age, againſt his Will, to his Brother's Widow. He ſucceeded his Father in the Throne.

DAUGHTERS.

1. MARGARET, married to James IV. of Scotland.
2. MARY, married firſt to Lewis XII. of France, afterward to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.

Number XXXVIII.

KING HENRY VIII. holding a private Conference with Cardinal WOLSEY.

HENRY VIII.

THERE was very great joy at the acceſſion of this prince; for his father had incurred the hatred of the people by his jealouſy, ſeverity, and avarice. This young monarch, who was eighteen years of age, gave the moſt promiſing hopes of making a good ſovereign; by the progreſs he had made in his literary ſtudies, he diſcovered a good capacity; and as the contending parties of York and Lancaſter were united in

in his perſon, there was reaſon to expect tranquility in his reign. Young Henry conſulted his grandmother, the counteſs of Richmond, and with her advice eſtabliſhed a good council.

The chief competitors for his favour were the earl of Surrey, treaſurer, and the biſhop of Wincheſter. The latter oppoſed the ſchemes of diſſipation and expence which were agreeable to Henry; but Surrey fell in with the humour of the youthful monarch, and with other courtiers, took advantage of his maſter's laviſh diſpoſition, and engaged him in ſuch a courſe of play and idleneſs, as rendered him negligent of public affairs, and willing to truſt the government of the ſtate entirely to his miniſters; thus the treaſures which the late king had accumulated were gradually diſſipated in frivolous expences.

Shortly after Henry's acceſſion to the throne, his marriage with Catharine of Arragon took place. She was a princeſs remarkable for her virtue, modeſty, and ſweetneſs of temper; but ſome years older than the king, and not very handſome. The counteſs of Richmond died ſoon after the marriage of her grandſon.

At the beginning of his reign, Henry was happy, both in his domeſtic adminiſtration and the ſituation of foreign affairs, and his alliance was courted by moſt of the princes of Europe; but it was not long before he engaged in a war with France, which injured the king of France, but produced no advantage to England. Shortly after Henry renewed this war; and he had at that time a miniſter who flattered him in every ſcheme to which his ſanguine and impetuous temper was inclined. This favourite was Thomas Wolſey,

Wolſey, the ſon of a butcher at Ipſwich, who being a man of abilities and learning, had been employed by the late king, who intended to have preferred him. Wolſey was recommended to Henry VIII. by the biſhop of Wincheſter, and he very ſoon gained an entire aſcendency over him, and the king made him his ſole and abſolute miniſter. In this exalted poſt, Wolſey was haughty to his equals, but affable to his dependants, oppreſſive to the people, but liberal to his friends, and he lived in the moſt oſtentatious magnificence; but his ambition made him many enemies.

Henry invaded France with a great army, but to very little purpoſe. The war with Scotland, which had joined France, was ſoon ended by a deciſive battle, and many of the Scotch nobility were ſlain. Margaret, queen of Scotland was declared regent during the

minority of her ſon; and Henry taking compaſſion on the helpleſs condition of his ſiſter and nephew was very kind to them.

The king loaded Wolſey with honours and preferments, and the pope made him a cardinal, and afterward legate, or ambaſſador to himſelf in England; under the laſt character he uſurped unbounded power, and gave great offence to the nation.

Francis I. king of France, excited the jealouſy of Henry by his warlike exploits; but his enmity was prevented from taking effect by the artifices of the cardinal whom the king of France had ſecretly gained over to his intereſt.

During ſome years many parts of Europe had been agitated with religious controverſies, which at length brought about the reformation. Martin Luther, an Auſtin friar, openly preached againſt the practices of the pope,

pope, and the errors of the church of Rome, and many ſovereigns countenanced him. At firſt Henry oppoſed Luther, and wrote a book againſt him, which he ſent as a preſent to the pope: in return for it, he received the title of *Defender of the faith*, which is ſtill retained by the kings of England.

When the king had been married eighteen years, he began to entertain ſcruples concerning the lawfulneſs of his marriage with his brother's widow, and applied to the pope for a divorce, but could not obtain it. This was a particular diſappointment to him, as he had fixed his affection on Anne Boleyn, daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn, a young lady of extraordinary beauty and accompliſhments, who was one of the maids of honour to the queen. Before this marriage Wolſey loſt the king's favour, and he was required to give up moſt of his great offices,

and to depart from York-houſe, a palace, which he had built in London, afterward called Whitehall. All his plate and rich furniture were ſeized, and he was ordered to retire to Aſhe, a place which he poſſeſſed near Hampton-court. About a year after his diſgrace he died, and Thomas Cranmer became the king's favourite, a man of great talents and integrity.

Number XXXIX.

The CHRISTENING of PRINCESS ELIZABETH.

Reign of HENRY VIII. *continued.*

AT this period the reformation began to take place in England, and the Lutheran princes of the empire aſſumed the appella-

tion

tion of *Proteſtants*. Henry, enraged againſt the pope, for not granting the divorce he ſolicited, determined to throw off his obedience to Rome, and to marry Anne Boleyn, whom he had before created marchioneſs of Pembroke; the marriage was celebrated privately, but ratified publicly ſome time afterward, and ſhe was crowned with extraordinary pomp and dignity, and Cranmer declared the marriage with Catharine null and void.

Queen Anne ſoon after had a daughter, who was baptized by the name of Elizabeth, and the king conferred on her the title of princeſs of Wales. He ſent to queen Catharine, to inform her that ſhe was from that time to be treated only as princeſs dowager of Wales; but ſhe never would ſubmit to this degradation.

The pope was enraged when he heard of

theſe proceedings; but Henry entirely threw off his authority, and the parliament conferred on him the title of the only ſupreme head of the church in England; yet Henry did not embrace the proteſtant faith, but regarded it as hereſy, and many perſons were martyred for openly profeſſing it.

John Fiſher, biſhop of Rocheſter, a prelate of great learning and piety, and Sir Thomas More, chancellor, were both beheaded for denying the king's ſupremacy.

In the midſt of the diſputes between Henry and Rome, queen Catharine died, and left a daughter named Mary.

Henry now determined to exert his power, in ſuppreſſing the monaſteries, and ſeizing the lands belonging to them, by which he greatly increaſed the revenues of the crown.

Queen Anne favoured the reformation, but, unfortunately for the party, as well as

for

for herſelf, the king was grown tired of her, and ſhortly after brought her to a public trial, for a crime ſhe was not guilty of, and ſhe was condemned to be beheaded, a ſentence to which ſhe ſubmitted with the utmoſt meekneſs and reſignation. The day after her execution the king married Jane Seymour, the daughter of Sir John Seymour; ſhe was one of the late queen's maids of honour.

The lady Mary, daughter of queen Catharine, was taken into the king's favour, but he gave a decided preference to the lady Elizabeth, and the new queen ſhewed great attachment to her.

Number XL.

Sir ANTHONY DENNY exhorting the KING to prepare for Death.

Reign of HENRY VIII. *continued.*

THE change in religion, and demoliſhing of the monaſteries, occaſioned inſurrections in the kingdom; but quietneſs was ſoon reſtored, and Henry's joy was completed by the birth of a ſon; but the queen died two days afterward. Cranmer, who was now archbiſhop of Canterbury, and Thomas Cromwell, the ſon of a blackſmith, formerly a dependent on Wolſey, whom the king had raiſed to be his favourite, took every opportuninty of drawing

drawing him from the Catholic faith; but biſhop Gardiner and biſhop Bonner kept him in ſuſpence, and ſeveral perſons were burnt for differing from the king in religious opinions; for he thought himſelf entitled to ſettle the faith of the whole nation, though he had not determined his own; and his uncertainty of humour gave each party the advantage of triumphing in their turns.

Soon after the death of queen Jane, Cromwell adviſed a match for the king with Ann of Cleves, whoſe father had great influence with the Lutheran princes; ſhe was accordingly ſent for, and Henry married her; but as ſhe was neither handſome in her perſon, or elegant in her manners, he was quite diſguſted with her, and diſpleaſed with Cromwell. This lady was eaſily perſuaded to conſent to a divorce, and the king married Catharine

tharine Howard, niece to the duke of Norfolk.

Henry thought himself very happy in his new marriage; but shortly after discovered that Catharine was a woman of very licentious conduct, so he caused her to be brought to trial, and beheaded on Tower-hill, and the countess of Rochford with her, who had been the chief instrument in bringing Anne Boleyn to the block.

Before this event Cromwell, at the instigation of the duke of Norfolk, was beheaded

After this the king married Catharine Parr, the widow of Nevil, Lord Latimer, a woman of discretion and virtue, who managed his temper with prudence and success; but she had very nearly shared the fate of her predecessor, for differing from him in a point of divinity.

An

An ulcer had broke out in the king's leg, which from his corpulency threatened his life; as his health declined, his ill-humour increaſed; his domeſtics were afraid to approach him, and his cruelties were more frequent. Sometimes proteſtants, and ſometimes catholics, were the objects of his ſeverity. The duke of Norfolk and his ſon were the laſt that he cauſed to be arreſted on a charge of high treaſon; the latter was immediately tried, condemned, and executed, for a crime of which he was wholly guiltleſs. The innocence of the duke of Norfolk was ſtill more apparent, and his ſervices to the crown had been greater; all the crime that could be alledged againſt him was, that he once ſaid the king was ſickly, and could not live long. He wrote a moſt pathetic letter to the king; but nothing could ſoften

Henry's

Henry's unrelenting temper. He found his own end approaching; but inſtead of forgiving the duke, he urged his immediate deſtruction, and orders were given for his execution, but, happily for Norfolk, news was brought that the king had expired that night, and it was not thought proper that a new reign ſhould begin with the execution of the greateſt nobleman in the kingdom, who had been condemned by a ſentence ſo unjuſt and tyrannical.

Though the king's danger was very apparent, no one had dared to acquaint him with it; at laſt Sir Anthony Denny ventured to diſcloſe the fatal ſecret, and exhorted him to prepare for his latter end. He expreſſed his reſignation, and deſired that Cranmer might be fetched; but before he arrived, the king was ſpeechleſs, though

he

he ſeemed to retain his ſenſes. Cranmer deſired him to give ſome ſign of his dying in the faith of Chriſt, he ſqueezed his hand, and immediately expired. He died in 1547, in the fifty-ſixth year of his age, and thirty-ſeventh of his reign.

This prince certainly was of a very cruel tyranical diſpoſition, as appeared by his whole behaviour, both in his public and private life.

If he contributed to bring about the reformation, it cannot be imputed to religious zeal, but to a regard to the gratification of his own paſſions. In the early part of his life, his perſon was much admired, but as he grew older, it was ſpoiled by corpulency,

In this reign an Engliſh tranſlation of the bible was undertaken by a convocation of moſt

moſt learned divines, and completed in three years. At firſt it was only allowed to be read in churches; but afterward private families were permitted to have it in their houſes. This privilege ſtill continues, and ought to be reckoned one of the greateſt belonging to the kingdom; for, when the Scriptures were confined to languages, known only to the learned, the generality of the people were kept in deplorable ignorance, and knew no more of religion than the prieſts choſe to teach them. Happy would it be for the nation, if every one was timely ſenſible of this advantage, and applied themſelves to the ſtudy of the ſacred Volume.

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TABLE

TABLE XXXI.

Family of Henry VIII.

WIVES.

1. CATHARINE of Arragon, divorced.
2. ANNE BOLEYN, Daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn, beheaded.
3. JANE SEYMOUR, Daughter of Sir John Seymour, died in Childbed.
4. ANNE of CLEVES, divorced.
5. CATHARINE HOWARD, Niece to the Duke of Norfolk, beheaded.
6. CATHARINE PARR, Widow of Nevil, survived him.

SON.

EDWARD, Prince of Wales, the Son of Jane Seymour, who succeeded him.

DAUGHTERS.

1. MARY, Daughter of Catharine of Arragon, afterward Queen.
2. ELIZABETH, Daughter of Anne Boleyn, afterward Queen.

END OF PART I.

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